October 26, 2015

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Board of Governors
1102 Q Street, Suite 4550
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Members of the California Community College Board of Governors,

On behalf of CompTIA and TechNet, the leading IT trade associations, we write in support of the final report and recommendations submitted to you by the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy. CompTIA and TechNet represent the nation's leading technology companies with an aim to educate government leaders about the technology industry and the importance of building a skilled workforce equipped with the digital literacy skills essential for success in a 21st Century digital workplace.

We applaud the work of the Task Force over the past year to expand access to quality Career Technical Education programs that meet the ever-changing needs of local industry. We also appreciate that the Task Force accepted two of our suggestions submitted during the public comment period to more fully integrate the use of technology into Career Technical Education curriculum and pedagogy.

As representatives of the high tech industry, we believe it is important for the California Community College System to explicitly reference the important role technology plays in the creation of workforce-relevant curriculum and the development of technology skills to help learners succeed in today's digital workplace.

Industry is increasingly using new technologies to drive improved business performance. Student exposure to utilizing technology and digital tools to perform their jobs is a growing employer requirement. Greater integration of technology in CTE curriculum design will enhance the student learning experience and provide them with the digital literacy skills important for success in the job market.

Young adults today are far more digitally savvy than earlier generations when it comes to navigating and leveraging social media opportunities. However, while they use a lot of technology, these young adults are not necessarily proficient in using digital tools for solving high-level problems and learning in the classroom. Unfortunately, this deficiency extends into the workplace.

According to a survey released last summer by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 16 to 24 year olds in the U.S. ranked last among the 19 industrialized countries

surveyed regarding the ability of young adults to solve problems with technology (Education Week, June 3, 2014). This is one of several indices that indicate the U.S. population is trailing other industrialized countries in key educational attainment areas.

As technology industry representatives, we believe it is critical to integrate the use of technology into the CTE curriculum to support new and innovative ways of teaching and learning and to help students improve their digital literacy skills to solve problems and improve job performance.

We thank you for allowing us to share our views on this important subject. We look forward to continuing work with the California Community College's in supporting the system's vibrant Career Technical Education programs. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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