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**Joint Committee on Appropriations**  
SENATOR DEB PETERS, CO-CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN CRONIN, CO-CHAIR

<DATE>

Dr. Melody Schopp, Secretary  
Department of Education  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2016 Session**

Dear Dr. Schopp:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations relating to your appropriation approved in the FY2017 General Appropriations Act (SB172). As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on <DATE>. While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency.

SB172 provided \$3 million in general funds for the purpose of increasing instructor salaries to competitive levels at the postsecondary technical institutes. It is the intent of the Committee that these funds are to only be used for instructors' salaries and benefits and that the technical institutes are allowed to use these funds for differential pay in high need areas and highly difficult areas to recruit and retain instructors.

The Committee also requests that the Department of Education provide a report by December 6, 2016. The report should outline the effect of the additional funding on instructor salaries and retention by program at each technical institute.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Senator Deb Peters  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

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Representative Justin Cronin  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General  
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management  
Mike Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute  
Mark Wilson, Mitchell Area Technical Institute  
Jeff Holcomb, Southeast Technical Institute  
Dr. Ann Bolman, Western Dakota Technical Institute