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April 13, 2023

To: Mr. Matt Jordan, CEO, Prosperity Denver Fund

Re: Letter of Support for Ordinance Changes

Dear Mr. Jordan:

On behalf of the Emily Griffith Technical College, I am pleased to write a letter of support for the proposed ordinance changes to the Denver College Affordability Fund (Prosperity Denver Fund). As you know, Emily Griffith Technical College (EGTC) has been part of Denver Public Schools since 1916, and has served well over 1 million alumni. In fact, in 21-22 EGTC served 8100 students across all programming combined (Career and Technical Education, apprenticeships, English language classes for immigrants and refugees, adult education, etc.). In short, EGTC has been a workforce/economic engine for Denver, and more importantly a beacon of hope that has lifted individuals and our communities for more than a century – and the proposed ordinance changes will allow additional Denver students and residents access to a high quality post-secondary education.

In particular, I want to extend my support to three critical changes that would immediately benefit potential EGTC students. First, a much-needed change to residency, which will recognize graduation from a Denver high school or six months living in Denver. This will open opportunities to many students and families. Second, raising the age limit for eligibility from 25 to 30, is hugely important for EGTC students. The average age of an EGTC student engaged in a career and technical education program resulting in professional certification/licensure is 26 – which speaks to the student that has had to delay their post-secondary education for any number of reasons, or who is returning to a technical college after having worked for several years and wants to earn a profession or upskill. And finally, I want to extend full support to the expansion of eligibility of high-quality nonprofit certificate programs. It is widely known that EGTC is the largest provider of higher education for apprentices in Colorado, with over 4700 apprentices state-wide currently enrolled. As a state authorized technical college, nationally accredited, our career and technical education programs generate a Colorado post-secondary transcript, with state-mandated transferability of credits earned to 2-and-4-year institutions. In fact, EGTC is 10th in Colorado, when ranked by student credit hours earned. As a technical college, certificate earning programming is what we excel in.

I wholeheartedly extend my support to these recommended changes, and believe it is both timely and appropriate for Prosperity Denver to evolve in response to how to best extend more opportunities to students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Johnson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy Johnson, Executive Director