Sept. 25, 2016

Dr. V. Celeste Carter  
Lead Program Director  
Advanced Technology Education  
National Science Foundation

I am writing to express my support for the continued funding of OP-TEC, the National Center for Optics and Photonics Education in its efforts to educate optics and photonics technicians for the United States workforce. Camden County College has had a long and successful relationship with OP-TEC. The college has hosted Capstone Laboratories, taught on-line courses and hosted professional seminars in photonics for state and local colleges. The college has also graduated over 460 technicians with associate degrees in photonics. As chair of the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Z136.5 committee for laser safety in educational institutions and chief laser safety consultant for OP-TEC, I have advised many colleges around the country about laser safety issues. OP-TEC has also formed PACT, the Photonics Alumni Council for Technicians which advises OP-TEC and regional photonic employers and colleges about the latest innovations in photonics. It also provides guidance to future students in high schools who are interested in a career in photonics. I urge the NSF to approve and fund the proposal submitted by OP-TEC. Its mission is critical to provide a work force in this fast growing technology.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Fred P. Seeber  
Professor Emeritus of Physics/Photonics  
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