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Dr. V. Celeste Carter  
Lead Program Director  
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National Science Foundation

As PI and Managing Director of the SpaceTEC National Resource Center for Aerospace Technical Education, I am writing to express support for the continued funding of OP-TEC, the National Center for Optics and Photonics Education in its efforts to increase the supply of well-educated Photonics Technicians for the nation's workforce by building and strengthening the capacity and quality of photonics education in two-year colleges and technical training centers nationwide.

Presently there is a national shortage of photonics technicians and the OP-TEC Center functions as a key resource to increase knowledge, awareness and access to Optics and Photonics education and career opportunities. OP-TEC's mission is not only critical to the success of the optics and photonics programs at two year colleges, they are essential activities necessary to sustain America's leadership position in many vital applications of these emerging technologies.

The SpaceTEC National Resource Center has produced and continues to support a national program for Aerospace Technology education and Aerospace Technician credentialing. Laser and photonics education is an important element in the nation's civil, military and commercial space programs. SpaceTEC is committed to working with the OP-TEC Center to strengthen the complementary curriculum available for imparting the knowledge and skills necessary for success in these emerging critical areas.

We support the proposed OP-TEC Support Center efforts to provide a qualified workforce as the education and training of Photonics Technicians will foster innovation and continued economic growth and employment.


Steve Kane,  
PI and Managing Director  
SpaceTEC® National Resource Center for Aerospace Technical Education