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

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR OP-TEC: OPCN COLLEGES

As the Director of the General Engineering Technology (GET) program at Tri-County Technical College I am writing to express support and commitment for Support Center funding of OP-TEC the National Center for Optics and Photonics Education, and its efforts to educate optics and photonics technicians for the US workforce.

OP-TEC has been a great asset for our program over the years. Through OP-TEC support we have created a more versatile and relevant program for our students. The new skills gained by students are greatly appreciated and valued by local industry and OP-TEC has made this possible.

OP-TEC provided badly needed funding and support for our Photonics program and this could not have happened without their help. OP-TEC also allows us to share best practices with other colleges and organizations. I cannot imagine running our Fundamentals of Light and Lasers course without the book produced by OP-TEC that we use in our classroom. The book, created by OP-TEC has made it possible to run the course without having to spend countless hours producing our own material this has allowed us to concentrate on the important task of enhancing the learning experience for our students.

We hope to continue to expand and improve the GET program with the help of this fine organization and through the numerous initiatives they have established to meet future goals. We have a great opportunity, through OP-TEC support, to reach out and help many other colleges, in the coming years, as much as OP-TEC has helped us.

Our college hopes to continue to work with OP-TEC in its endeavors by sharing our success practices with other organizations. The GET program has experienced a steady growth over the last 7 years and OP-TEC has been there to help us. Through OP-TEC we can help other colleges by sharing our recruitment and retention strategies. We continue to look forward to spreading the word about photonics to K-12 students and teachers through our outreach with workshops, Summer camps and technology shows facilitated by OP-TEC.

The importance of lasers and optics, today and in the future, cannot be overstated. New technologies to harness the incredible capabilities of light and optics are emerging every day and we must be prepared to meet the demands of industry, medicine, security, research and other needs to provide qualified technicians to fulfill this important need. OP-TEC’s mission is critical to the success of the optics and photonics programs at two year colleges.

Sincerely,

Dorian McIntire, P. E. Program Director General Engineering Technology