

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 22, 2015

Jeffrey Zients, Director
The National Economic Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Zients:

We are writing in support of the application submitted by Project Login and its partners for the TechHire Communities Initiative, which aims to train American workers with the skills they need for well-paying technology jobs. Project Login is a public-private program of Educate Maine, a business-led education advocacy organization that is working to champion college, career readiness, and increased education attainment throughout the State of Maine. Project Login and its partners are working to expand the network of computer science (CS) and information technology (IT) professional opportunities in Maine through engagement, education, and internships.

Since its launch in 2013, Project Login has worked with private companies, educators, and students to make significant strides in addressing the technology skills gap that exists throughout Maine. With an innovative approach, Project Login has produced some promising initial results. Over the past two years, Maine has seen an increase in students graduating from universities and colleges with CS and IT degrees and an increase in the number of paid internships offered by businesses that have partnered with Project Login. As these companies hire more interns, paid internships become a new entry point for careers, and many of these young professionals continue on after graduation to help grow Maine's technology sector.

With a TechHire Community designation, Project Login is proposing to accelerate efforts to help qualified candidates who are not enrolled in four-year degree programs to identify and pursue pathways to paid internships in CS and IT positions with Maine employers. This includes people with on-the-job experience but no degree, people for whom English is a second language, rural residents, underemployed, long-term unemployed, and single parents with childcare challenges.

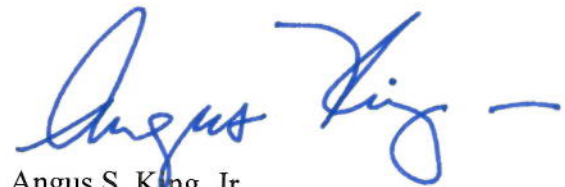
Project Login's proposal leverages the expertise of an impressive group of public-private education, industry, and workforce partners. Through their targeted efforts, the partners in the Project Login proposal will improve Maine's workforce. A TechHire Community designation would further accelerate Project Login's efforts and allow the team of partners to share best practices with other TechHire communities across the nation.

We encourage you to consider carefully Project Login's application for the TechHire Community Initiative, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. Please have your staff notify David Lieberman (Senator Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (Senator King) at (202) 224-5344 if you have any further questions and when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator