



January 15, 2025

Dear New Member of Congress:

On behalf of the American Council on Education (ACE), the major coordinating body for our nation's colleges and universities and the only major higher education association to represent all types of U.S. accredited, degree-granting institutions, public and private, I write to congratulate you on your election and confirmation to the U.S. Congress. We at ACE and across the higher education community look forward to working with you to boost educational opportunities and access, improve student outcomes, support research addressing national priorities, and much more.

As I shared in my congratulatory message to President-elect Trump,¹ American higher education is a vital national asset. From community colleges and public regionals to major research institutions and liberal arts colleges to faith-based institutions and minority-serving institutions, institutions of higher education, in partnership with the federal government and the states, contribute to the most powerful system for learning, training, research, and innovation in the world. In short, higher education builds America.

Supporting higher education is essential in developing a skilled workforce necessary for our country's long-term economic growth and national security, and our 2025 Legislative Agenda details how Congress can effectively and efficiently enhance higher education.² Additionally, please look for an invitation to a welcome reception for new members of Congress that we will be hosting later in 2025. It would be great to see you there.

We know that the new Congress will work swiftly to improve the lives of all Americans, confront our nation's challenges, and strengthen our country. Supporting higher education is central in achieving these goals. Please do not hesitate to ask how we can assist in meeting them.

We look forward to a constructive partnership over the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ted Mitchell
President

cc: Jon Fansmith, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and National Engagement,
JFansmith@acenet.edu

¹ Statement by ACE President Ted Mitchell on the Election of Donald J. Trump, <https://www.acenet.edu/News-Room/Pages/Statement-Election-Donald-J-Trump.aspx>

² 2025 ACE legislative agenda, <https://www.acenet.edu/News-Room/Pages/Legislative-Regulatory-Agenda.aspx>