

January 22, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Coordinators
Perkins Sex Equity Program

FROM: Doris Jacobs

SUBJECT: **EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999:** Termination of Perkins Funding for
Sex Equity Grant Programs

As you know, we have been operating for the past two-and-a-half years under an extension of the Perkins Act of 1990, which allowed us to use some \$350,000 for model programs in the college and community to modify perceptions about gender equity. That act (Perkins II) was amended this summer with "Perkins III." This new law, The Carl D. Perkins Vocational And Technical Education Act of 1998, has designated much less money for sex equity programs. Specifically, only a maximum of \$150,000 will be available to BOTH public schools and community colleges, beginning July 1, 1999.

Although we had hoped for a year's transition between the old and new acts, the Department of Education informed us just last month that we cannot spend Perkins money in the old way for 1999-2000. This means that *beginning July 1, 1999 we will not have any Perkins money to support sex equity grants as we have known them.* It follows, then, that there will not be a request for proposals from this office as usual for this time next year.

You should at this point, do what you can to keep your current program operating smoothly with your characteristic inventiveness. At the same time, please do what you need to for the future. The new Perkins does require that a serious effort be made to educate our potential workforce to the nontraditional choices that are available to them. And from our reading of the legislation, colleges can spend

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money on counseling and mentoring (that would describe a position such as yours). But until we can get a state plan approved, we cannot advise you definitely about what course to take. It could be mid-to late summer before that happens.

In the meantime please take a serious look at the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. I understand that Congress intended child care, tuition, and transportation to be available through Title I of this legislation. Your quickest access to this money would be through your president and the one-stop coordinator in your community.

I wish you the best luck in whatever you decide to pursue. Please call me at Ext. 510 or Elizabeth Brown at Ext 445 if you think either of us can be helpful to you.

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