

September 16, 2021

Hello, My name is Sue Martin. Thank you for this opportunity to share with you my perspective as a Senior Recruiter for Penn Medicine/Lancaster General Health located in Lancaster, PA. We are a Level 1 Trauma Center, non-profit hospital system with over 9,000 Healthcare Heroes. We have been serving the Lancaster County Community and the surrounding areas for over 125 years. Mr. Chairman, I know you are from Lancaster County and we appreciate your support and representation of our community.

In my role, I recruit the Allied Health Professionals. Allied Health jobs are one of the fastest growing job groups in the US economy and represent 60% of all healthcare providers. Allied Health careers range from jobs that require a HS diploma, (Phlebotomist, Pharmacy Tech, Certified Medical Assistant), to those requiring a 2 year associate degree, (Surgical Techs, Respiratory Therapist, X-ray, CT and Ultrasound Techs and Medical Lab Techs, Histotech), to persons with BS, Masters and Doctorate degrees, (Pharmacists, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapists) to name a few. The current climate has made it extremely difficult to find enough trained persons for these roles. These careers offer salaries that provide a good living wage and career potential. I would encourage you to support initiatives that would; support funding of Career training for these two year Allied Health programs, and education at middle school level about these very viable career paths.

The Mission of Penn Medicine LGHealth is, "To advance the Health and well being of the community we serve." Our system works to that end in many ways, one is through collaborative partnerships with non-profits within our community, such as that with the wonderful people at SACA/Tech Centro. We have greatly appreciated the well trained employees we have gained from their programs. Working together we can provide clients with information regarding job opportunities, education on both job skills and job search skills, and work together to put that education into an actual job offer and employment. The Career Navigators at SACA provide a wonderful support system to people working very hard, often holding a job and completing school at the same time. In tandem we have been better able to navigate the barriers that make finding employment and onboarding into employment difficult. By Pennsylvania Workforce initiatives providing important funding for training programs such as those at SACA, it provides greatly needed education opportunities for the advancement of persons in the community and greatly needed staffing for local businesses. Initiatives that Strengthen employer relationships with these programs will only enhance the end goal of individual and community well being.