SUBJECT: GAO Survey of Community College and Technical School Workforce Development Scheduled for January 2004

REPORTED: Terrence Russell, AIR

The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions has asked the General Accounting Office (GAO), to study the multiplicity of roles that community colleges and technical schools play as pathways to higher academic learning and employment for both youth and adults. The centerpiece of the GAO study will be a Web-based survey of all public community colleges and technical schools in the U.S. Survey topics include:

- Academic transfer programs
- Occupational, professional and technical education programs: both credit and non-credit
- Below college level (remedial) courses
- Basic skills programs and courses
- Contract training, and other programs such as personal enrichment
- Sources of revenue and funding
- Federal Workforce Investment Act participation

Release of the survey is scheduled for early January 2004. The survey will be sent to each institution's IPEDS key holder. However, because of the comprehensive nature of the survey, completion will likely involve input from other college departments such as contract training and finance. Your timely response to the GAO survey will greatly assist that agency in providing the Congress with an important
national picture of the role of community colleges and technical schools in workforce development and the impact of their programs on our nation's workforce.

A GAO report to the Congress will result from the survey. It will be issued in the fall of 2004. As with most GAO reports, it will be available at no cost on that agency's Web site after publication.

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