

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Betsy DeVos
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary DeVos:

I write today to express my strong support for the grant application of Concord University in the second slate of the 2017 Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program awards process. Obtaining these funds would allow the VUB program to continue to provide services that are critical to the success of low-income and first-generation students who have served in our Armed Forces.

West Virginia is one of the most patriotic states in the country, and we are proud of the high percentage of veterans who have served our military honorably and proudly. However, many of these veterans are first-time college students who are juggling work and school while trying to navigate the complex rules and regulations of things like Advanced Placement classes, SAT tests, college applications, financial aid, and finally college itself. The VUB program helps to fill those voids and enable veteran students to receive an education that will enhance the valuable skill sets they have already received through military training and allow them to more smoothly transition into the civilian sector.

Our veterans have fulfilled a commitment to protect our nation and we have a responsibility to make sure that those who are willing to work hard receive a good education and have the necessary resources and training to achieve their educational goals and careers as civilians. Continued funding of this program will help ensure that our veteran students at Concord University maintain access to important services, such as tutoring and financial aid assistance, to make better informed decisions about applying for, attending and graduating from college. By providing greater access to college, this program will also help address the high level of unemployment among veterans and allow our nation's returning heroes to find good jobs.

The VUB Program staff at Concord University is devoted to assisting veterans in developing the skills and motivation necessary for success in their pursuit of their higher education goals. This is a critically important program to West Virginia veterans, and I ask that you give this application every appropriate consideration.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator