



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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NJASCU Testimony on Assembly Bill No. 1668 Establishes New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Business Partnerships

Assembly Higher Education Committee

May 12, 2016

The New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities support Assembly Bill No. 1668. The proposed commission will work to foster productive and mutually beneficial collaboration between New Jersey's businesses and institutions of higher education. The bill would help to achieve some of the goals to strengthen the relationship between New Jersey's business community and the state's institutions of higher education that were discussed at the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce's "Business Summit" last September. A similar initiative was floated six years ago by NJ Business & Industry Association's (NJBIA) New Jersey Public Research Organization (NJPRO), in a report called *Building Bridges Between Academic Institutions, Business and Government to Bring Innovation to the Marketplace*. You can see the report's recommendations on page 7: <http://njprofoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/buildingbridges.pdf>.

We are grateful to the sponsors for their vision and look forward to working with our colleagues in both business and higher education. To that end, we request that the language of the bill which provides for "a representative of a public or independent college or university" be amended so that both the public sector and the independent sector have representatives on the commission.

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