



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 31, 2019

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: **Senate Bill No. 65 (Creation of the Focus on Alternative Skills Training Program)**

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed **Senate Bill No. 65**, which establishes the Focus on Alternative Skills Training Program ("FAST"). FAST will provide up to \$9,000 in tuition to Delaware residents who have obtained a high school diploma, Diploma of Alternate Achievement Standards, or a Delaware Secondary credential, and have enrolled in an approved non-degree credit certificate program that provides industry-accepted skill training and certification no later than 18 months after graduating high school. Council **endorses** the proposed legislation.

FAST will improve access to alternative skills training programs and provide additional post-secondary opportunities for Delaware students, particularly students with disabilities. Council supports ways to make the program available to more individuals and suggests removing the requirement that eligible individuals must have enrolled in an approved program no later than 18 months following their graduation from high school.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our endorsement and observations. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office should you have any questions.