



## Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

February 9, 1998

The Honorable Italo S. Cappabianca  
House of Representatives  
30 East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Cappabianca:

Thank you for assisting Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) by approving the appropriation for the 1997-1998 fiscal year. The funds will be used in the continual improvement of its educational program and student assistance.

Enclosed is the most recent edition of Facts about LECOM. A brief review will show you that LECOM is continuing its development. Currently 68% of LECOM's students are Pennsylvanians. Twenty-three (23) of LECOM's clinical training sites are Pennsylvania medical facilities. LECOM has also entered affiliation agreements for a "3 & 4" accelerated program in primary care with Pennsylvania State University-Behrend College, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Duquesne University, and Gannon University. These agreements, and others that are being negotiated, will insure that LECOM will continue to enroll some of Pennsylvania's best students.

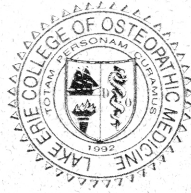
I hope you have the opportunity to review facts about LECOM. Please come to visit LECOM's campus if you're in the Erie area.

Very truly yours,

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Michael J. Visnosky  
Chairman of the Board

Enclosure



## Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

March 17, 1997

The Honorable Italo S. Cappabianca  
House of Representatives  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
30 East Wing  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

In re: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Non-Preferred Appropriation Status

*ITALO*  
Dear ~~Representative~~ Cappabianca:

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, "LECOM", has been attempting to gain non-preferred appropriation status for the last two years. LECOM is Pennsylvania's newest medical school. It is dedicated to the training of primary care physicians who practice in the areas of family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology. LECOM's mission is to prepare students to become primary care osteopathic physicians who will serve the continuing need for the practice of primary care medicine in the State of Pennsylvania and surrounding areas.

LECOM is Erie's first and only professional school. It received its degree granting authority from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on December 24, 1992, and will graduate its first class with full accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association on May 24, 1997.

LECOM has placed heavy emphasis on recruiting and training Pennsylvania students to become Pennsylvania physicians. In Section I of the LECOM booklet, there is a complete breakdown of the current enrollment of students from Pennsylvania as well as the partial enrollment for the incoming class of 2001. LECOM consistently maintains 65% enrollment of Pennsylvania students.

Further, the administration has placed heavy emphasis on obtaining and training Pennsylvania students at LECOM. LECOM has entered affiliation agreements with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Duquesne University. Similar agreements are being negotiated with Gannon University, Grove City College and Allegheny College. By using this exclusive agreement recruitment tool, LECOM is guaranteed that it will receive some of the best and brightest students currently being educated in Pennsylvania based colleges and universities.

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Students have been attracted to LECOM in growing numbers every year. LECOM presents each student with a state-of-the-art medical school and a limitless opportunity for learning. All facilities are new and represent the latest advances in medical technology and learning. The LECOM faculty, using the systems approach to medical education, has guided LECOM students to outstanding results on the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Part I test. In the two years in which LECOM students have taken the test, they have enjoyed past rates of 96.32% in 1995 and 95.95% in 1996, which are among the top three scores in the country and both well above the national average of the 18 osteopathic medical schools.

LECOM students do more than study. If you review Section III of Facts About LECOM, you will find several additions of the LECOM Connection. There you can learn about student activities in the community, which include participation in the Caring for Kids program, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, blood pressure screenings, walk-a-thons for various charities and many other charitable events related to LECOM student government.

LECOM, through its administration and the faculty, also attempts to make a significant contribution to the Erie community. It has sponsored the Medical Application of Science and Health Program under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Governor's School of Excellence. Its program has been extended to a two week program in its second year. LECOM is participating with the School District of the City of Erie in identifying and recruiting minority students for careers in science, and particularly medicine. LECOM is also working on a cooperative effort with the Erie School District to provide faculty members to teach basic science courses in the charter school being developed by the District.

There are many more feats and accomplishments which could be listed, however, a brief review of the LECOM Connection newsletters will give you a good idea of LECOM's dedication to the Erie community.

LECOM also provides significant financial support to the Erie Community. Since its inception, 66 new jobs which never existed before in Erie have been created at no cost to anyone. Twenty-one (21) of these jobs are at the professional level and pay salaries in excess of \$40,000 annually. Forty-five (45) of these jobs are at the middle management and support staff level and provide salaries and wages all of which are significantly in excess of the prevailing minimum wage. In addition, LECOM is an avid consumer in the Erie economy. It is estimated that in the academic year of August, 1996 through July, 1997, LECOM, directly and through its students, shall contribute in excess of \$25,000,000 to the general economy in this area. That number will only grow as LECOM's enrollment is maximized to approximately 440 to 480 students and the faculty and staff are increased to meet their needs. This is truly a positive effect for the entire Erie community.

LECOM is the only medical school in Pennsylvania which does not receive significant state aid. In the past, LECOM has received an appropriation of \$300,000 which has been delayed by the Common Cause law suit currently before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. An



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additional \$350,000 was appropriated for the 1996-1997 fiscal year. Both of these amounts are far below appropriations made to the medical schools which are receiving non-preferred appropriations or direct state aid.

On behalf of LECOM, I would request that you support the bills which will be introduced in the Senate by Senator Jane Earll and in the House by the members of the Erie delegation requesting \$1,000,000 in non-preferred appropriation aid to LECOM.

In the event that you are ever in Erie, please contact me so we can tour the facility with you. After your tour, you will certainly know that not one penny of State money will be wasted. I remain,

Very truly yours,

LAKE ERIE COLLEGE OF  
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

by:   
Michael J. Visnosky  
Chairman of the Board

DEAR ITALO-

THANKS FOR YOUR  
MANY EFFORTS ON BEHALF  
OF LECOM. HOPEFULLY WE'LL  
REACH OUR GOAL THIS  
YEAR





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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES  
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

September 8, 1993

Honorable Dwight Evans, Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
512-E-3 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Dwight:

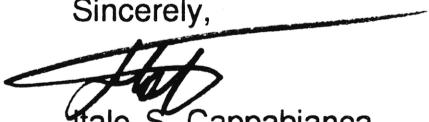
As you may be aware, the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine recently opened. Currently, the Commonwealth funds several state-related medical schools, for more than \$5 million each, to educate students in various areas of medicine. I ask your commitment and total support for the Lake Erie College of Osteopathy as well.

This school holds great promise for the Commonwealth and we would be remiss in not fully dedicating our resources to seeing it succeed. In its first year of operation, it has already filled its class's capacity and has a waiting list for next year. We can not afford to ignore this school, too many students are involved.

I look forward to working with you on this appropriation, whether it be by line-item, or through the Department of Education. Nonetheless, I stress the importance of adding this medical school to our funding stream for schools such as Hahnemann and Penn State-Hershey.

Thank you for your personal attention and commitment to this very important matter. It will make a difference in literally hundreds, and eventually thousands of lives.

Sincerely,

  
Italo S. Cappabianca  
Representative, 2nd District

ISC/cmr