

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education,
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education,
& Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you craft the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$358,885 in community project funding for the Kirkwood Community College Aviation Maintenance Technician Program, located at 6301 Kirkwood Boulevard, SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

This project will address a regional need by supporting Kirkwood Community College's partnership with the Eastern Iowa Airport, investing in an Associate of Applied Science degree program to train, mentor, and graduate certified aviation mechanic technicians (AMTs). Specifically, these funds will support the development of an industry-ready curriculum and the outfitting of an existing aircraft hangar at the Eastern Iowa Airport in Cedar Rapids with necessary equipment and technology to serve as an instructional facility for the program.

Kirkwood Community College is a proven education institution in the region, consulting with local business and industry to find ways to best prepare workers to enter in-demand careers. This project was born of several needs identified by a Regional Vision Strategy from the local communities, focusing specifically on workforce needs in engineering and automation. With several large employers nearby, Kirkwood's program offers opportunities for students to be ready to enter an in-demand career field. This degree and certification path matches students with strong local need for workers and funding support from community partners. This center will be only the third post-secondary AMT program in the State of Iowa, addressing a projected shortage of 1,500 FAA-certified Airframe and/or Powerplant (A&P) mechanics in a 350-mile range locally.

Supporting this project will create a direct pipeline to high-paying jobs with an average expected starting salary of \$60,000, having a strong economic impact across seven Iowa counties. This training and certification program will put workers in a position to build a successful career for

years to come, attracting degree seekers in a county with poverty levels higher than the state average. Of particular note, this project has received robust community support, indicating that these students will indeed be needed and valued in the local job market without delay.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, as I strongly believe that providing these funds will help address labor shortages in a critical industry and support economic growth and opportunities for individuals and families in the East Central Iowa region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Hinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations