

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

April 27, 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 \$372,000 in community project funding for equipment upgrades at the Northeast Iowa Community College's National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, located at 8342 NICC Drive, Peosta, IA 52068.

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) is a hands-on interactive training facility located on the Northeast Iowa Community College's (NICC) Peosta campus that equips health care workers and community members to prepare for common dangerous situations workers in agriculture and rural communities face. NICC is a cornerstone education provider for health workers in Iowa and the surrounding states, focusing on vital, entry-level training for careers in emergency medical response, nursing, and respiratory health, among other opportunities. NECAS supplements this traditional education with a hands-on learning opportunity not only for health care workers and students, but also for wider community members, first responders, and farmers. This is the only interactive training setup of its kind in the United States.

This training is truly a unique, community-based approach to health and safety that relates directly to agricultural machinery injuries, serving the needs of Iowa's rural communities and saving lives. Community members from local EMS providers to agriculture producers rave about the value NECAS provides, noting that NECAS has been able to document at least 32 lives saved nationwide as a result of its training programs. These essential trainings include: anhydrous ammonia emergency response (farmers use this chemical to replenish nitrogen levels in soil), confined space trainings (specifically for grain bin and manure pit entrapments), tractor rollovers (an estimated 500-600 people are killed every year in tractor accidents), combine auger rescues (as combines get faster at handling grain, they also get more dangerous), and more.

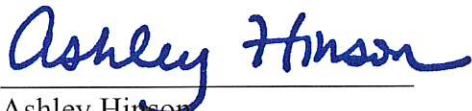
As the health care workforce crisis continues to hit rural Americans particularly hard, Iowans need additional skills and training tools like those offered by NECAS to support patients in serious conditions. In a most unusual way, Northeast Iowa Community College has established a way to tailor health education to the needs of the surrounding rural community while simultaneously building on decades of trust and expertise.

This funding will be used to purchase capital equipment to support the life-saving mission of NECAS, including: four 4-gas monitor trainers, a Jaws of Life, an I-Sim 12-lead cardiac simulator, a 12-lead manikin, an indoor grain bin confined space trainer, a truck to tow the simulators to training sites, a crash cart, a ventilator simulator, and two medication simulators. All of this equipment is essential for the program to operate in a way that provides the best available hands-on educational experience to the local community.

Without a doubt, the more trained professionals and community members available to assist, the less severe injuries will be, and the more lives will be saved. NICC serves an eight-county, 5,000-square-mile district with a population of approximately 200,000 residents. The bulk of the region is composed of small towns with populations mostly under 10,000 residents. All of these individuals could be the next patient saved by someone who underwent NECAS training.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, as I strongly believe that providing these funds to Northeast Iowa Community College will enable the community to be safer and better prepared in the event of a farm emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Hinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress  
Committee on Appropriations