

MADELEINE DEAN
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May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1306 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Schmidt Training and Technology Center Expansion for Workforce Development in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Reading Area Community College, located at 10 South 2nd Street, Reading, PA, 19603.

The funding would be used for the institution to make physical improvements to an existing, under-utilized building on campus. Formerly a warehouse for the Reading Eagle, RACC currently uses the facility for storage. However, due to the ever-increasing demands for its workforce development programs, the college recently underwent a feasibility study that identified the warehouse as the ideal location through which RACC could expand its current CNC Operator training, as well as develop a new industry-recognized welding program.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Reading Area Community College is a key player in regional growth as the college has the programs in place to meet forecasted demand for skilled occupations while creating access to educational attainment. Goal #2 of its five-year strategic plan is to be a "proactive community partner," by increasing its responsiveness to community needs in providing workforce training, contracted training, and both credit and non-credit career and transfer programs. The Schmidt Training and Technology Center at RACC provides customized training programs that adjust to the changing needs of its 250+ industry partners. Its training programs are based on employer needs and utilize ever-evolving instruction methods and technologies that are highly individualized. The college also has strong student support services in place to ensure success and completion, leading to a family sustaining career.

As a vital connector in the workforce pipeline, RACC prepares a significant number of first-generation, underrepresented students to careers in the region's top industry sectors. The college is prepared to address the regional shortages for skilled employees in manufacturing-related High Priority Occupations (HPO) and to develop a pipeline of new entrants into this sector. These high priority occupations include precision machining, industrial maintenance, mechatronics technicians, and quality systems professionals. The college's request for

Community Project Funding is rooted in its current and future workforce programs, as well as its mission to continually meet the reality of those who are inevitably caught in the cycle of poverty by providing access to such programs. RACC graduates immediately enter the work force. They can also articulate to one of RACC's 30+ four-year partners.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 USC 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress