Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the Black Hawk College Advanced Manufacturing Training Academy in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Black Hawk College, located at 520 E. Third Street, Kewanee, IL 61443.

Black Hawk College, together with their industry and K-12 partners, seeks to address barriers to education and employment specifically targeting the manufacturing sectors. At the heart of the proposed Manufacturing Training Academy rests the intersection of technology, systems, and people. Demand for a highly skilled manufacturing workforce is expected to grow in our region as well as Illinois, ultimately widening the current skills shortage if strategic and intentional opportunities are not implemented.

This project is informed by evidence-based research and practices. As such, Black Hawk College will use a combination of sector-based, accelerated learning, immersive learning, and employer engagement strategies that are supported by evidence-based research that points to their effectiveness.

This combined approach will enable Black Hawk College to develop and scale flexible accelerated learning options that leverage innovative and immersive technologies in programs offering credentials that prepare students for high-demand, sustainable-wage careers to meet the objectives of the project.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress