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4TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

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March 24, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Motlow State's Distance Learning Project to Improve Student Enrollment, Persistence & College Completion in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Motlow State Community College located at 6015 Ledford Mill Road Tullahoma, TN 37388. The funding would be used for Motlow State Community College, in partnership with Tennessee State University (TSU), to purchase equipment to invest in a distance learning network that will provide shared courses between five campuses and for the high schools in 11 counties that receive dual credit courses from Motlow State. The project will also allow students at Motlow State to take courses from TSU. The project will allow Motlow to provide synchronous real-time interactive distance learning classes to distance high schools, and campuses. Distance Learning as defined by the USDA Rural Utility Services is "real-time, interactive, telecommunications link to an end-user through the use of eligible equipment to provide educational programs, instruction, or information originating in one area, whether rural or not, to students and teachers who are located in rural areas."

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because many colleges and high school student who take on-campus courses at Motlow are more than 50 miles away from the nearest campus and synchronous interactive video conferencing solves this problem, providing all students access. Each campus provides a specific set of courses, and all programs and courses are not available at all campuses. Due to the fact many of the students who attend Motlow State are financially challenged and first-generation students, they are more likely to attend the college campus nearest to their home. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 75% of today's students are juggling some combination of families, jobs, and school while commuting to class. This imposes hardships on students who are often also parents or hold a job locally in their community, and many do not have a car. A total 23% of students at Motlow are over 25 years old. This project will help Motlow provide access to educational opportunities to non-traditional students through the creation of our distance learning network. This will allow them to take courses that are not available at the campus closest to their home.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 2331 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, 7 U.S. Code section 950aaa.

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

Sincerely,



Scott DesJarlais