

BRIAN J. MAST
21ST DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918
June 6, 2025

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The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed project to expand the Veterans Center and corresponding services for veterans at Indian River State College (IRSC). The project will transform space at the College's Pruitt Campus into a much-needed dedicated space for veterans and the local community in Port St. Lucie, Florida. IRSC main campus is located at 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce, FL 34981. However, the location of the proposed Center is at 500 NW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, 34986.

IRSC plans to utilize the \$1,800,000 to modernize the existing Center, making it more functional for varying activities and events that support the large, active veteran community living in St. Lucie County. The primary focus of the improvements to the Center will be the addition of telehealth pods for virtual medical visits to improve access to healthcare services. Currently, there is only one VA Hospital within 250 miles of St. Lucie County, so this addition will reduce the travel-burden for veterans making them more likely to access care.

The renovations will also include a digital lab for recording and media production, allowing veterans to document their experiences for inclusion in the Library of Congress and participate in other virtual events connecting and supporting veterans. The College will also update study areas and create spaces for veterans to collaborate on business ideas and other community-focused projects. The upgrades to the Veterans Center are intended to positively impact veterans' physical and mental health while contributing to the overall support for veterans and community members in the area.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

I certify that neither I nor any immediate family members have financial interest in this project.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress