

BRIAN J. MAST
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CHAIRMAN - COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, House Committee on
Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$5,000,000 in funding for the Indian River State College Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Hub project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Indian River State College, located at 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34981.

The funding would be used to equip and operationalize a dedicated campus facility to serve as an Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation Hub, providing workforce training in emerging technologies, advanced manufacturing, and industry-recognized certifications. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it directly addresses critical workforce shortages by creating a pipeline to high-skill, high-wage careers aligned with regional and national industry needs. Developed in partnership with local manufacturers, the Hub will deliver targeted training, technical assistance, and innovation support to students, workers, and small businesses across a four-county service area. This investment will strengthen economic resilience, support job creation, and enhance regional competitiveness while contributing to a skilled workforce that supports key industries, including those relevant to national defense manufacturing.

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

Sincerely,



Brian J. Mast
Member of Congress