April 27, 2022

Dear Appropriations Committee Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting $2,907,390 in funding for the Innovation and Jobs for the Future program at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College and West Los Angeles College in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), located at 770 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90017.

This proposal incorporates two innovative projects to address the educational and workforce development needs of our communities: “Mobile Learning Innovations” at Los Angeles Trade Technical College, including food truck entrepreneurship, and the California Climate Change Education Center/Workforce Development Initiative at West Los Angeles College, including a mobile classroom. Both involve mobile learning environment projects that bring learning to the students. Both use innovative instructional methods and respond to evolving preferences for credentials with a direct tie to the labor market. In addition, the initiatives seek to improve student education and employment outcomes by providing curriculum that incorporates applied research and work-based learning opportunities to overcome existing challenges that have been exacerbated by ongoing shifts in the post-COVID economy in Los Angeles. Finally, the projects will launch opportunities to help learners, business and industry partners, and the communities they serve to thrive in the present and future.

This an excellent use of public funds because these projects fulfill two important goals: to prepare students for better career education pathways now, connecting them to stable work; and to prepare students for the jobs of the future. The LATTC “Mobile Learning Innovations” portion of the project will design customized portable classrooms, including food truck, design and media learning centers, with state-of-the-art equipment. These will provide exciting learning opportunities by taking mobile classrooms to neighborhood schools, parks, community centers, agency partners, and business and industry partners. This LATTC pilot project will provide education and training in the Culinary Arts, Design, and Media Pathways, providing courses that are directly linked to employment and business opportunities in the community. The California Climate Change Education Center/Workforce Development Initiative at WLAC will take a two-pronged approach to “jobs for the future”: (1) it will provide workforce training for green jobs and careers, in partnership with local job source centers; and (2) it will establish student internships and other learning opportunities related to climate change and its social, economic, political, historical, and scientific aspects.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
Member of Congress