

**SHARICE DAVIDS**

**3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT, KANSAS**

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS**

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515**

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April 29, 2021

Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chairwoman  
Defense Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Ken Calvert  
Ranking Member  
Defense Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Calvert:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2022 Defense bill, I respectfully request that you consider the following Community Project funding request:

1. Automation Engineering Technology Program – \$1,980,600 – Kansas City Kansas Community College – Requested funds will enable KCKCC to purchase necessary, state-of-the-art equipment for its new Automation Engineering Technology program. This equipment will allow KCKCC students/graduates to train on real-life automation equipment that is currently used in the industry. Without this grant, the College will not have the funding to purchase equipment of this caliber and students will have a greater difficulty transitioning from the classroom to the workforce. The requested equipment will be immediately installed and used in the College's current Automation Engineering classrooms. However, once the KCKCC Downtown Community Education Center (DCEC) is completed in 2024-2025, the equipment will be moved to the DCEC, in a larger, 8,202 class/lab space, to accommodate additional students. The DCEC is a 119,000 square-foot facility that, working with community partners to offer desperately needed wrap-around services, will serve as an anchor institution in the urban core of Kansas City, Kansas, provide social and economic mobility for its residents, and be a national model of public/private partnerships for future educational institutions across the country. The equipment being purchased for the AET program will prepare all students for careers in the defense manufacturing area. Students will be able to create and replace parts, run machines, weld, and perform almost any task necessary for a manufacturing plant that is producing equipment specifically for defense. Whether it is robotics, automation systems integrating plant wide, our students will be at the forefront of technological defense manufacturing supplying current needs and building a knowledge base that would allow us to grow our regional footprint in this area moving forward. The Department of Energy's National Security Campus has taken advantage of KCKCC

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graduates in the past to operate and maintain equipment at their facility. Contractors of this site are also substantial benefactors of the AET and serve on the college's manufacturing advisory committee.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests and for your continued leadership.

My warmest regards,



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress