

**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 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the Johnson County Community College Commercial Driver Training Range project in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd. RC 152, Overland Park, Kansas 66210.

The funding would help Johnson County Community College, in partnership with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department and Johnson County Government, to develop a 60-acre plot adjacent to the New Century Airport (Gardner, KS) into a multi-purpose driver training range. This space will serve as a driver training range for JCCC's CDL program and training space for local law enforcement and municipalities. Public Benefit for Driver Training Range for JCCC's CDL Program: The Kansas 3rd Congressional District has seen a tremendous demand for heavy and tractor-trailer drivers emerge. According to JobsEQ, currently 16,874 Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers are employed in the Kansas City Metro Area. The need for safe and qualified drivers due to job growth and driver attrition is estimated to be 9,949 over the next 5 years. The American Community Survey estimated that 77,213 Johnson County residents had a High School diploma or less as of 2019. The range of annual income for these residents was between \$30,547 and \$35,425. A CDL-A opens a career pathway as a heavy & tractor-trailer truck driver, where the regional average annual wage is \$45,332 annually. Those graduates from JCCC's CDL program have indicated their starting salaries ranged between \$50,000 to over \$70,000. The labor market data shows this occupation as a viable pathway for students seeking a family-sustaining income. The increase in licensed drivers will also help ease the supply chain and logistics challenges created by the pandemic. Johnson County Community College Weekend CDL Truck Driver Training currently has classes filled until October 2021. CDL schools around the metro area also are reporting larger class sizes and Truck Driver training classes being filled several months in advance. Building a new driver training range directly impacts and helps meet the Board of County Commissioner's Strategic Priorities as it relates to Law Enforcement. Their Goals and Outcomes emphasize our "quick response when citizens need help" and "to have a safe community in which to live, work and raise a family." Driving is one of the primary tasks required of the Patrol officer employed to keep our communities safe. Neither of these goals can be

successfully met without providing emergency and non-emergency driver's training. A new driver training range will allow Johnson County to be a better resource and partner to its fellow cities and neighboring counties by building a facility sought after by so many.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Davids', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Representative Sharice Davids  
Member of Congress