

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0403

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the Arkansas Tech University Agricultural Learning Laboratories in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Arkansas Tech University. The University's address is 215 West O St. Russellville, Arkansas 72801.

The Arkansas Tech University (ATU) Agriculture Learning Laboratories would support ATU's agricultural education programs, specifically by investing in modern equipment and technology to update existing teaching laboratories. ATU's agricultural education student pathways currently include a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business with emphases in Animal Science, Horticulture, and Pre-Veterinary Medicine. This investment will enhance ATU agricultural students' experience by introducing state of the art equipment and technology to prepare students to compete in our state's leading industry. For agricultural education (agricultural mechanics), the laboratories enhancement will include updated metal fabrication equipment including four multi-process welders, virtual and augmented reality welding systems, a small gasoline engine instructional kit, ten solar and wind power instructional kits, skid steer, and a compact excavator among other needs. The animal science and horticulture laboratories enhancement will include, among other needs, a weather station, a compound microscope, a SMART Board for teaching, a cattle water intake system, a portable cattle corral system, and a portable photosynthesis system. These laboratory enhancements are critical for agriculture education courses (Agricultural Education, Animal Science, and Horticulture) due to the rapidly evolving agriculture industry in the state. Furthermore, the technological advancements in the agriculture industry have clearly shown the necessity of a highly skilled agriculture workforce to meet the food, fiber, and natural resource demands of Arkansas citizens.

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

Sincerely,



Steve Womack
Member of Congress