

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

June 2, 2021

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,

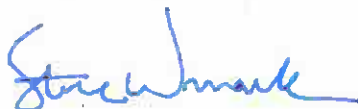
I am requesting funding for the PEAK Innovation Center – Career Connections Curriculum in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Fort Smith Public Schools. The School District's address is 3205 Jenny Lind Rd. Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901, and the project is located at 5900 Painter Ln. Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72903.

The PEAK Innovation Center, opening in August 2021, operates as the flagship of Western Arkansas' top- to-bottom rethinking of Career and Technical Education (CTE). It will be operated as a Fort Smith Public Schools owned facility, primarily house programs taught by the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (UAFS) and be available to students from 22 regional school districts representing over 43,000 total students. At PEAK, students from these districts will be exposed to non-college/university career clusters and will have the opportunity to earn technical concurrent credit and industry recognized certifications in three primary career pathways. In off-hours and during the summer months, the Peak Innovation Center will be leveraged for adult/incumbent worker training and skills upgrade, industrial training, and other community uses. The Career Connections Program at the PEAK Innovation Center will provide students the opportunity to be exposed to career clusters in their middle school years. This request supports the curriculum for three units; Design and Modeling, Automation/Robotics, and Medical Detectives. The Career Connections Program will expose 6-8th grade students to career clusters and will also serve as an economic driver for the western Arkansas area by ensuring there area middle school students are aware of technical career pathways so in the future they can take advantage of PEAK's concurrent certification and credit offerings.

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

Sincerely,



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress