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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting \$1,231,600 under the Fiscal Year 2023, Department of Education, Postsecondary Education – Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) account for Pima County Community College District located in Tucson, Arizona.

The entity receiving the project is located at 4905 E. Broadway, Suite C-220, Tucson, AZ 85709. The location of the project is Pima Community College Downtown Campus, 1255 North Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85709.

The requested funding is a valuable use of taxpayer funds as it will support the expansion of Pima Community College's Building & Construction Technology (BCT) program and enable the program to purchase equipment to expand into commercial and industrial HVAC and refrigeration competencies. The training opportunities in these areas are not available to students, therefore, Pima Community College (PCC) will be one of very few colleges and technical schools that will be able to prepare students to study and start careers in the industry and to reskill/upskill technicians already employed in the industry, which will support students, employers and the larger Tucson community.

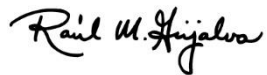
While improving, the Arizona construction industry is facing new challenges with the rebounding economy. Builders are experiencing continued labor problems due to a shortage of skilled workers. Arizona employers share that training students and upskilling existing workers is critical to expanding the talent pipeline. They also express that the industry is experiencing rapid technological advancements, exacerbating the need for a highly skilled workforce trained in cutting edge technology.

PCC has collaborated with employers to expand the curriculum, and as a result plans to make upskilling existing workers more accessible, by utilizing this new equipment and technology so

that workers can not only achieve traditional college credentials, but also can participate in short-term training that will help these employees stay current with technological progress in the industry. These “micro credentials” allow employees to personalize their learning, as they can select short-form micro-credentials tailored to their career goals and responsibilities. They'll also be better prepared to move up or change jobs during their career and can evidence 21st century skills.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'R'.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress