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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro & Ranking Member Cole,

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.

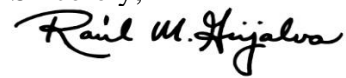
The requested funding is urgently needed by Pima Community College's Building & Construction Technology (BCT) program to expand and enable the program to purchase equipment to expand into commercial and industrial HVAC and refrigeration competencies. These training opportunities are not currently available 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.

The Arizona construction industry is facing new challenges with the rebounding economy. Builders are experiencing continued labor shortages due to a scarcity of skilled workers and employers share that training students and upskilling existing workers is a critical step 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 innovative technology.

The program expansion includes: Carpentry/Cabinetmaking - Saws & forklift (\$234,000), Heavy Equipment - Simulators (\$368,000), Electrical - Solar power generating/storage system (\$60,000), HVAC/R - Refrigeration systems and equipment - (\$515,700), and HVAC/R - Refrigerant, heaters, drives, pumps, condensers (\$53,900).

This funding request is vital to PCC, and they have already collaborated with employers across the larger community to expand the curriculum, make upskilling for existing workers more accessible, by utilizing this new equipment and technology so that students achieve traditional college credentials, but also can participate in short-term training that will help employees stay current with technological progress in the industry. These “micro credentials” allow students to personalize their learning, as they can select short-form micro-credentials tailored to their career goals. The expansion of this program will also better prepare students to pursue further opportunities in their respective fields or change jobs throughout their career with the evolving 21st century skills. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important project that will support the future of students in Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress