

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

BILL FOSTER  
11th District of Illinois  
<http://foster.house.gov>

2366 Rayburn  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3515

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the STEM Equipment for Research and Workforce Development in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is North Central College, located at 30 N. Brainard Street, Naperville, IL 60540.

The funding would be used for the purchase of two pieces of precision instrumentation, a confocal microscope and a scanning electron microscope (SEM), for science and engineering laboratories. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the precision instrumentation will provide STEM students with hands-on training that supports workforce development, and improves North Central College's research and development capabilities with regional industry partners.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Bill Foster  
Member of Congress