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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$2,090,000 for the Southern Adventist University Next-Generation STEM Workforce Lab in FY 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Southern Adventist University, located at P.O. Box 370 / 4881 Taylor Cir, Collegedale, TN 37315. The funding would be used to procure advanced science and engineering laboratory equipment for research and workforce development. Equipment would support materials testing and measurement, advancing manufacturing and automation training, and laboratory instruments for applied research and instruction. These activities and efforts are consistent with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) mission-aligned activities. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will strengthen the pipeline of engineers and scientists trained in measurement, testing, and advanced manufacturing-relevant skills that support regional and national competitiveness and innovation. It also focuses exclusively on equipment for existing, accredited, and rapidly growing academic programs, rather than new construction, and can be implemented quickly.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 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,

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress