



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Future of Work: Secure Edge AI and Connected Systems Micro-Credentials for Milwaukee's Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Initiative in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, located at 3203 N Downer Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

The goal of this project is to expand access to high-skill technical training that prepares Milwaukee-area residents for careers in advanced manufacturing while helping regional manufacturers adopt emerging technologies that strengthen productivity and supply chain resilience.

Many small and mid-sized firms increasingly rely on automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, and connected production systems. The project will focus on work to develop competencies in secure edge artificial intelligence, industrial internet of things networking and security, robotics and automation, digital twin modeling, and manufacturing execution systems.

This funding would support the acquisition of instruction-critical equipment used in hands-on labs such as robotics platforms, edge AI development kits, and industrial machine vision systems, and the implementation of hybrid learning systems that allow working adults to participate either on-site or remotely. By investing in equipment such as robotics platforms, machine vision systems, and edge AI development kits, the project will create production-grade training environments that mirror modern factory settings and allow participants to gain experience with the technologies now being deployed across the manufacturing sector. The aim is to help accelerate the development of an advanced manufacturing workforce.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer money as this project will help close critical skills gaps that constrain manufacturing growth and innovation. Manufacturing remains a major driver of the regional economy, but employers increasingly report difficulty finding workers with skills in automation, AI-enabled production systems, and digital manufacturing technologies. The project helps to close those gaps by supporting the development of necessary training in innovative manufacturing and AI that will help Milwaukee residents access family-supporting careers while strengthening the competitiveness of small and mid-sized manufacturers.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with, and supportive of, NIST's mission and aligned with one or more of the functions and activities 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,

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gwen Moore", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.