



Colorado Advanced
Manufacturing Alliance

December 3rd, 2013

Capital Development Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to write this letter on behalf of the Colorado Advanced Manufacturing Alliance in support of Metropolitan State University of Denver's request for funding to start design work on its Aerospace Advanced Manufacturing Building.

The Colorado Advanced Manufacturing Alliance is the only trade organization in Colorado focused solely on manufacturing, and continually advancing manufacturing in the state through workforce development, job creation tools, educational events, and access to capital. Created by manufacturers for manufacturers, CAMA is committed to meeting the needs of Colorado manufacturers.

Today's manufacturers require a highly skilled workforce trained in the advanced manufacturing tools critical to our defense and national aerospace industries. One of the most pressing questions for manufacturers today is, "Where are the workers?" It is generally acknowledged that there is a shortage of skilled manufacturing workers in the United States. Anecdotal evidence gathered just today at the Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways Executive Luncheon with Senator Rollie Heath and Representative Jim Wilson suggests Colorado is no different, and that there are open manufacturing positions in Colorado at a time when unemployment remains stubbornly high.

Dr. Jordan and his team have done an excellent job involving Colorado manufacturers in the innovative planning and development of this Aerospace Advanced Manufacturing Building. This partnership and this proposed facility are critical to educating the most skilled workforce for Colorado's aviation, aerospace and advanced manufacturing needs. This multi-faceted building will provide the curriculum, advanced technologies and the labs necessary to build a pipeline of qualified STEM students to help grow Colorado's Advanced Manufacturing sector. This sector is critical to providing high-paying primary jobs in Colorado.

We urge your favorable consideration of this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Heaton", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Heaton
President

Senator Gail Schwartz, Chair
Representative Edward Vigil, Vice-Chair
Senator Randy Baumgardner
Representative Randy Fischer
Senator Cheri Jahn
Representative Libby Szabo

CAMA -- Always Advancing

720-274-9776 14062 Denver West Parkway • Building 52 • Suite 300 • Golden, CO 80401
www.CO-CAMA.org



Dec. 4, 2013

Capital Development Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Ave
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Honorable Ladies and Gentleman,

We are writing on behalf of the Colorado Space Coalition (CSC) and the Colorado Space Business Roundtable (CSBR) in support of the important development plans underway at Metropolitan State University of Denver. We are unable to personally attend your hearing today because our 10th Annual Colorado Space Roundup is being held all day. Please accept this letter as evidence of our enthusiastic support of MSU Denver's plans.

Namely, MSU Denver is proposing a building and programming that will *directly impact our state's economy* by educating workers for Colorado's aerospace industry.

Colorado has the country's second-largest aerospace industry and yet significant skills gaps remain in educating our own population to work for these companies. At a time of increasing competition for aerospace business – both from other states and globally – it is imperative that Colorado provide a robust pipeline of qualified aerospace workers to meet the needs of some of our state's largest employers.

MSU Denver plans to build a state-of-the-art facility that will directly address this need. Specifically, the University's program will educate Colorado citizens to fill one of the biggest workforce vacuums in aerospace today: advanced manufacturing experts. Our members routinely tell us that in addition to engineers, there is an acute need for skilled employees who can translate those engineers' drawings into prototypes. The need for people with hands-on advanced manufacturing capabilities is critical for ensuring the future aerospace workforce is both competitive and innovative.

Additionally, the aerospace industry is looking to broaden its workforce to be more inclusive of underrepresented populations and women. MSU Denver is incredibly well positioned to help in

1445 Market Street, Denver, CO 80202
303-620-8083
www.spacecolorado.org

that goal. MSU Denver enrolls the highest number of students of color among the state's four-year colleges. Further, 85% of MSU Denver's graduates stay in Colorado, meaning we will be educating our own workforce, not creating a feeder program for other states.

In summary, our two organizations represent most of Colorado's aerospace employer and stakeholder base, and we commend MSU Denver's leadership for its efforts in developing a pipeline of workers for the aerospace industry which will generate significant economic impact for our state. We urge you to support MSU Denver's funding needs for the Aerospace, Sciences and Engineering building and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Vicky Lea
Senior Manager, Aviation & Aerospace
Colorado Space Coalition



Stacey DeFore
Chair
Colorado Space Business Roundtable



Office of Economic Development
Office of the Director

201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 208
Denver, CO 80202
p: 720-913-1999
f: 720-913-1610
www.denvergov.org/oed

December 2, 2013

Ms. Catherine B. Lucas, APR
Associate to the President for
Marketing and Communications,
Chief of Staff

Dear Ms. Lucas:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support, on behalf of the Office of Economic Development (OED), for the Aerospace, Engineering and Science (AES) Building at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Educating next-generation employees for the digital-to-hardware manufacturing industry will satisfy industry needs with a highly skilled workforce in the Denver metro area and Colorado.

Currently, the growth of Denver's industry partners is constrained by the inability to find skilled employees, or programs to promote the challenges and rewards of high tech manufacturing. MSU-Denver's innovative project to integrate the study of advanced manufacturing disciplines in the new AES Building will fit that bill.

OED fully supports the efforts of MSU-Denver and we applaud you for recognizing the importance of preparing highly skilled workers for state and national aerospace/aviation and other advanced manufacturing industries. Investments in AES and advanced manufacturing will revitalize our manufacturing base to create high-quality, good-paying jobs that lead to gains in the economy.

Sincerely,



Paul Washington, Executive Director
Office of Economic Development

Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company
12257 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80125
(303) 977-2720



Dennis O. Little
Vice President, Production

December 4, 2013

Capital Development Committee
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Honorable Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company (LMSSC), I am writing in support of the Metropolitan State University of Denver's request for funding to start design work on its Aerospace Advanced Manufacturing Building.

With current climate factors such as sequestration, decreased defense budgets, and limited big start-up contracts on the horizon, Lockheed Martin has taken steps to transform the way we develop, design, manufacture, assemble, and test our products. We are leveraging the digital tapestry – the 3D digital information woven throughout every stage of our processes -- and most importantly, keeping that digital information intact, from conceptualization to realization of our products. At Lockheed Martin, we are developing a new generation of satellites and other space systems that are conceived, designed, and manufactured leveraging innovative digital technologies. Not only are we manufacturing our products with new technologies, but we are influencing the way our engineers are designing products that take full advantage of the innovative manufacturing tools. We need people who have advanced manufacturing experience who embrace these new technologies and are an integrated part of building and improving our products in a streamlined way.

Colorado's aerospace industry is the second largest in the nation and often has to recruit trained professionals from out of state. Even worse, if we do find qualified candidates in Colorado, it usually means we are hiring them away from another aerospace-related company. Either scenario is bad for Colorado's economy. If we educate students here, we want them to stay here. MSU Denver students are Coloradans with a track record of staying home when they graduate. This is important to the aerospace industry because we want to partner with the institutions that educate our future workforce – a workforce that tends to stay and not turnover. We know that MSU Denver's students stay here and, therefore, we are more inclined to trust that our partnerships will lead to a long-term workforce impact for Colorado.

Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company
12257 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80125
(303) 977-2720



Additionally, the aerospace industry is looking to broaden its workforce to be more inclusive of Colorado's diverse populations. MSU Denver is incredibly well positioned to help with that goal, as they enroll the highest number of students of color and other diverse demographics among the state's four-year colleges.

Lastly, the location of the proposed Aerospace, Sciences, and Engineering building is important. Industry leaders will come right down the parkway and see Colorado's commitment to this industry.

In essence, one of Colorado's biggest industries is desperate for a specialized workforce that is currently not available in Colorado. We must educate Colorado people now or pay the price in lost economic opportunities for decades to come. MSU Denver is poised to educate and graduate precisely the people we need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis O. Little".

Dennis O. Little
Vice President, Production

Senator Gail Schwartz, Chair
Representative Edward Vigil, Vice-Chair
Senator Randy Baumgardner
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Senator Cheri Jahn
Representative Libby Szabo