



Springfield | Beavercreek | Bellefontaine | Xenia

Thank you, Co-Chair Oelslager, Co-Chair Callender, Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance Committee for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of Clark State Community College today. My name is Dr. Jo Alice Blondin, and I am proud to serve Clark State as President.

Founded in 1962, Clark State Community College serves approximately 9000 credit students annually at five campus locations in Springfield, Beavercreek, Xenia, and Bellefontaine, Ohio. Clark State offers the latest degree and certificate options in more than 125 workforce and transfer fields. According to a report commissioned by the Southwestern Ohio Council on Higher Education (SOCHE), Clark State has a total economic impact in our four county service area (Champaign, Clark, Greene and Logan Counties) of \$161 million annually.

I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of including Ohio's higher education capital reappropriations' requests generally and Clark State's requests specifically in HB 670, the state's reappropriations' bill.

Clark State appreciates and is grateful for the State's investment in its infrastructure. The projects listed below have been underway since the Capital Bill became law in September 2018. However, the nature of the process, the duration of Ohio's construction season, and the length of time some projects require make reappropriations for these projects necessary.

The Rhodes Hall and Applied Science Center is critical to instructional delivery at Clark State. These two buildings provide 70% of the instruction for the college, and the programs housed in these buildings are the backbone of Ohio's economy and workforce: healthcare and general education. Both buildings serve as major hubs of academic activity on campus by providing laboratory space for clinical, hands-on experience as well as extensive classroom space and technology spaces. This Capital Reappropriations' funding is needed to allow for classroom space redesign, increased accessibility to technology, and a focus on safety and security in order to accommodate our faculty, staff, students and the community, particularly in light of the changes necessary as a result of COVID-19.

The Greene Country Take Flight Initiative is a partnership between the Greene County Career Center in Xenia and Clark State Community College. This project involves the development of laboratory and classroom spaces on-site at the new Greene County Career Center location and the Greene County Airport to assist in the aerospace and airline mechanic training programs as well as outfit the laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment. As many of you are aware, Greene County, adjacent to the largest single-site employer in the state, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, is the locus for defense contractors in this field. Greene County Career Center and Clark State have worked diligently with industry representatives to provide a training program that meets their needs.

Section 207.22. CLT CLARK STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reappropriations

Higher Education Improvement Fund (Fund 7034)

C38527 Rhodes Hall and Applied Science Center
Renovation \$685,191

C38531 Greene County Career Center Take Flight
Initiative \$850,000

On behalf of Clark State Community College, please know how much we appreciate your service now more than ever during these challenging times. Because no general revenue money is included in this reappropriations' request, it will not impact the state's ability or need to balance the state budget. Please include higher education and Clark State's projects in HB 670 so that we can continue to serve our students in preparing them for the workforce and retraining those in need of new opportunities in Ohio's economy. Thank you.
