

President Cynthia Jackson-Hammond
Senate Testimony
Tuesday May 19, 2015
Statehouse – South Hearing Room

Senator Gardner, Senator Cafaro and members of the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee, good morning. I am Cynthia Jackson-Hammond, President of Central State University. I am pleased to provide testimony in support of Central State University's request for 1890 land grant state match funds.

In June of 2012, the 129th General Assembly passed Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 30 designating Central State University as Ohio's 1890 land grant institution. An excerpt from the resolution is as follows:

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Ohio (the House of Representatives concurring):

WHEREAS, The Ohio General Assembly desires to designate Central State University as an 1890 land grant university under the Second Morrill Act; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 129th General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, designate Central State University as a land grant university under the Second Morrill Act of 1890 and request that the United States Congress pass legislation, and the United States Department of Agriculture take the necessary steps, to recognize that designation and to provide Central State University with all of the benefits of such designation.

The resolution was then signed by former Speaker of the House William Batchelder, former Senate President Tom Niehaus and adopted on June 13, 2012.

Following Ohio's deliberative action, Central State received federal designation as an 1890 land grant institution with the signing of the Farm Bill on February 7, 2014.

Central State, from 2012 has been planning the activities associated with this designation. Let me talk specifically about the work being done to implement the land grant mission.

Our initial planning began with the Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural & Environmental Sciences in the development of co-located service areas, and the procurement of agricultural extension services and food nutrition service programs in underserved communities throughout Ohio. In partnership with Ohio State, we formed a 20-member Land Grant Advisory Committee and developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the agreed upon service areas and the placement of Central State's Extension Agents. As a result, Central State and Ohio State will share in the delivery of agricultural outreach and extension activities in as many as 10 Ohio counties.

Additionally, Ohio State & Central State worked collaboratively in the development of our Land Grant Strategic Plan and the Central State University Combined Research and Extension Plan of Work. Our plan of work will focus initially on four integrated programs: 1) Improving Agriculture, Plant, and Economics; 2) Creating Youth Pathways to Success; 3) Developing Better Social Economic Sustainable Communities; and 4) Building Families and Communities. The campus hub of Central State's land grant activities will be the CSU

Conservation Center. With land grant facilities funding provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), we have acquired the land necessary to construct the center and will begin the design phase later this year. We are aggressively establishing our presence as an 1890 land grant institution with service to Ohio through research and the development of best practices in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, & Mathematics (STEAM).

All 1890 institutions by virtue of the land grant designation, receive funds from USDA intended to strengthen research, extension and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences by building institutional capacity in these areas. According to the Hatch Act of 1887, these funds must be matched 100% by the state where the institution is located or risk forfeiture of federal funds. Section 3(d)(1) and (2) of the Hatch Act of 1887 states:

“Except as provided in paragraph (4) no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount the

State makes available out of non-Federal funds for agricultural research and for the establishment and maintenance of facilities for the performance of research”

AND

“If a State fails to comply with the requirement to provide matching funds for a fiscal year under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture shall withhold from payment to the State for that fiscal year an amount equal to the difference between

(A) the amount that would be allotted and paid to the State under subsections (b) and (c) (if the full amount of matching funds were provided by the State); and

(B) the amount of matching funds actually provided by the State.

The language is very clear. The federal government will only allocate funds to institutions that FIRST receive a commitment of state match funds from non-federal sources.

Our request is that the State of Ohio commits land-grant state match funds of up to \$4,815,627 million: \$2,596,511 in Research and \$2,219,116 in Extension for FY 2016 and FY

2017. You might ask how we arrived at these estimates? Here's how.

In FY 2015, when the most recent land grant allocation was made, there were a total of 18 land grant institutions – excluding Central State. We had received our designation, but not in enough time to be considered for a disbursement of funds. According to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), in FY 2015, 1890 land grant institutions split a total Research allocation of \$49,333,707 and an Extension allocation of \$42,163,200. When divided equally among the then 18 institutions, the average award per institution was \$2,740,762 in Research and \$2,342,400 in Extension. To calculate the estimate for our state match request, we simply took the FY 2015 total allocations in Research and Extension and divided each by 19 land grant institutions. When Central State is included, this results in average awards of \$2,596,511 and \$2,219,116 in Research and Extension respectively.

Let me be clear – these estimates are based on FY 2015 allocations. The federal government, much like we are here in Ohio, is currently deliberating the proposed FY 2016 budget.

We will not know with exact certainty what our FY 2016 land grant allocation will be until the federal budget is released in October. Also consider that there is misalignment between the federal & the state budget cycle, which means that state match must be secured before the federal allocation can be disbursed. What we do know is that the federal government has already proposed an increase to National Institute of Food and Agriculture's budget in the amount of \$13.6 million to maintain support for Minority-serving institutions AND to address the addition of Central State University and two other Minority-serving institutions in the Farm Bill. For all intents and purposes, our estimated allocations are conservative and could potentially be higher based on the proposed FY 2016 federal budget.

If we do not receive the requested land grant state match funds, Ohio will miss the opportunity to increase its capacity to generate jobs, to increase the skills and abilities of some of its most economically challenged communities and citizens, and to increase its support for agricultural research, technology, natural resources and the environment. Central State is a value-added institution to the State and constituencies of Ohio.

I hope that your consideration of this request is reflective of the deliberative action taken by the 129th General Assembly when they designated Central State University as an 1890 land grant institution.

Thank you for your time this morning and I welcome any questions the Committee may have.