



Finance Committee Meeting

May 31, 2022

10:30 am

Room 313

H.B. 687

**Testimony from Dr. Doreen M. Larson
President, Edison State Community College**

Regarding the Edison State Capital Appropriations FY 2021-2024

Dear Chairman Oelslager and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am Dr. Doreen Larson, the president of Edison State Community College. Thank you for the opportunity today to provide brief testimony on behalf of the capital needs of Edison State.

Edison State is requesting a \$5 million capital investment to quickly address the current facility barriers that are limiting our ability to fully impact our region's workforce in Nursing and Manufacturing. The state would be investing these funds in a community college with a track record of growth and success that sets us apart from our peers in the state and the nation.

Edison State is a growing college:

The National Student Clearing House reported on May 26, 2022, an overall decrease in higher education enrollment of 4.7% for all sectors. Community Colleges reported even steeper declines of near 8%.

In contrast, Edison State Community College gained 40% in enrollment from just under 4,000 students in 2016 to 5,500 students in 2022. We continue to grow reporting 4% increase in spring 2022 and a 5% summer 2022 enrollment increase. Our fall 2022 enrollment currently stands up over 30%.

The enrollment growth at Edison State includes components of workforce development requiring the institutional commitment and culture of workforce partnerships that are a hallmark of our college. Edison State was the first community college in Ohio to become a Registered Apprentice Sponsor and the college lead a statewide initiative to acquire Apprentice eligibility for veterans. I testified in support of state funding for short-term workforce certificate seekers and Edison State served as the model for providing short-term credit programs to incumbent workers as well as job seekers.

Edison State students are successful:

College success for Edison State students did not slow during the pandemic, we have, in fact set all-time degree and certificate completion records for the college over the past two years. The State Share of Instruction (SSI) allotted to colleges is based upon student performance in courses, credits and program completion. Edison State consistently ranks in the top 3 community colleges for gains in the performance funding model. Over the past two years alone, Edison State has increased our share of performance funding by 20%. The Community College Research Center (CCRS) has twice featured Edison State for best practices in student retention.

The strong local alliance and reputation of the Edison State Nursing program supported the continuation of nursing clinicals throughout the pandemic. Likewise, pass rates for Edison State nursing graduates over the past two years remain at over 90% and employment of graduates at 100%. Edison State enrolls just over 180 nursing students each year into facilities designed for 125 students. The program uses temporary spaces scattered across the campus.

Edison State is financially strong:

The overall Composite Financial Indicator (CFI) for Edison State is 4.5 with a 5.0 being a perfect score. Over the past 5 years, the college has consistently rated 4.4 or higher, indicating strategic growth and a disciplined fiscal plan.

The college has been good stewards of our facilities and to date has added new spaces through the shared community college capital budget line, inter-institutional partnerships, shared space, shared service agreements, and private funding. The \$5 million requested for 2021-2024 would be the first designated funds in the 50-year history of Edison State.

The need is immediate:

Edison State Community College faces an acute need for new and renovated space that requires capital funding designated for our college to respond to needs in the workforce areas of Nursing and Engineering.

Edison State has exhausted our current facility capacity due to the expansion in Nursing and Engineering programs:

- Enrollment in Nursing at Edison State has grown from 129 (the current design capacity) to a consistent 180 in recent semesters. We have accommodated the program growth with temporary classroom assignments and use of the Robinson Theater multi-purpose space. The \$2.5 million in capital funding for Nursing will add 6,000 sq. ft. of new classroom and advanced skills lab spaces.
- Enrollment in Mechanical Engineering has grown 35% from 2017 to the present. Capital funds for Engineering will enable more efficient use of the current Engineering lab space including constructing a mezzanine level. Equipment replacement in the manufacturing lab is aligned with current and anticipated skill needs.

The need for skilled workers in the areas of Nursing and Manufacturing is well documented in the state. Edison State has utilized the tools provided at the state level for workforce development including funding for short-term certificates. Edison State has obtained support for this specific request from regional employers including representative names and contact information. These contacts are eager to share the depth of their workforce challenges along with their confidence that Edison State can rapidly act on solutions. This contact information is attached at the conclusion of this written testimony.

The \$5 million Capital request supports the key industries of Nursing and Engineering.

The Nursing wing expansion plan (\$2.5 million)

- Nursing enrollment has increased from 129 at the last remodel to 180 currently
- Program maintains an NCLEX pass rate of over 90% consistently
- Graduates report a 100% employment rate

Current square footage is **5300**

Proposed square footage is 11,300 sq. ft. (**adds 6,000 sq. ft.** for computer-based testing, advanced skills labs, and classrooms)

The Engineering renovation and equipment upgrade plan (\$2.5 million)

- Mechanical Engineering enrollment has increased 35% from 2017 to present
- Graduates report 96% employment or successful transfer rates
- Apprenticeships increased from 25 in 2019 to 116 in 2021
- 100 new co-op positions were added in 2020

Proposed Manufacturing Lab renovation **adds 2,500 sq ft** including a mezzanine

Proposed new equipment

Mills and lathes with digital readouts
Additional TIG Welder, Drill Press, and
Hydraulic/Pneumatic stations
Hardness Tester with multiple scales
Ultrasonic Non-Destructive materials testing unit
Compressed Air Dryer
Coordinate Measuring Machine

Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to working with you to obtain the funds needed to leverage the strong position of Edison State that can lead our region to economic health.

Sincerely,

Doreen M. Larson
President, Edison State Community College

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Developing the Workforce of Tomorrow at Edison State Community College through Capital Investment in Nursing and Engineering Facilities

The following business partners endorse the Edison State Community College Workforce Development Capital request for Nursing and Engineering facilities:

Company Name: Premier Health

Contact Name:

Peggy Mark, PhD, MBA, BSN, RN

System Chief Nursing Officer &

Chief Experience Officer

Premier Health

110 N. Main St., Suite 300

Dayton, OH 45402

Office Phone: 937-499-9073

Cell Phone: 937-545-7986

E-mail: mwmark@PremierHealth.com

Company Name: Kettering Health

Contact Name:

Sandra Swanson

Academic Partnership Coordinator

Kettering Health

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Miamisburg, OH 45342

Office Phone: 937-458-4042

E-mail: Sandra.Swanson@ketteringhealth.org

Company Name: Wilson Health

Contact Name:

Linda Maurer, MSN, RN

Wilson Health

Chief Nursing Officer

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Sidney, OH 45365

Office Phone: 937-498-5383

E-mail: Imaurer@wilsonhealth.org

Company Name: Wayne HealthCare

Contact Name: Kimberlee Freeman, DNP, MS, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE

Vice President of Patient Care Services/CNO

Wayne HealthCare

835 Sweitzer Street

Greenville, OH 45331

Office Phone: 937-569-6719

E-mail: Kimberlee.Freeman@waynehealthcare.org

Company Name: Dayton Children's Hospital

Contact Name:

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Company Name: Reid Health

Contact Name:

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Company Name: Emerson Commercial & Residential Solutions

Contact Name:

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Company Name: Honda Development & Manufacturing of America

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Company Name: American Trim LLC

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Company Name: Crane Pumps & Systems

Contact Name:

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Company Name: Midmark Corporation

Contact Name:

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Company Name: Weidmann Electrical Technology Inc.

Contact Name:

Corey Welliford
Engineering and Maintenance Manager
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Company Name: Ramco Electric Motors
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Plant Manager
5763 Jaysville-St. Johns Rd.
Greenville, OH 45331
Office Phone: 937-548-2525 x6204
E-mail: Ryan.Beisner@ramcoelectricmotors.com

Company Name: Jafe Decorating, Inc.
Contact Name:
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President/Owner
1250 Martin St.
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E-mail: rodell@jafedeco.com

Company Name: ORBIS Corporation
Contact Name:
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