



VINCENNES UNIVERSITY
RICHARD E. HELTON, PRESIDENT

February 19, 2009

Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

Vincennes University (VU) is pleased to submit a formal request for funding under the FY10 Appropriations Request.

The purpose of VU's request is to purchase cutting-edge advanced manufacturing industry emulation equipment to be used exclusively in the new *Gibson County Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics*, which is scheduled for groundbreaking later this spring. The Gibson County Center will significantly increase VU's capacity to train and pipeline new and incumbent workers for the high-growth, high-tech advanced manufacturing job opportunities throughout Indiana's southwestern industrial corridor. The advanced manufacturing equipment purchased through this request will allow VU to: 1) provide a substantial increase in the number of new employees for the manufacturing area; 2) transform the skill-sets of incumbent and displaced workers throughout the state; 3) positively affect the future growth of the state's manufacturing industry (a staple of Hoosier employment); and 4) make serious and positive impacts on regional economic and workforce development.

As you know, Indiana is the most manufacturing intensive state in the nation, accounting for the highest percentage of total Hoosier jobs. Within the southwestern industrial corridor alone, these jobs make up more than one-tenth of the region's total direct employment sector (including as much as 68% of total indirect employment). VU has a long and successful history of serving the needs of Hoosier employers and employees, and continues to operate Indiana's largest advanced manufacturing degree programming at the associate and baccalaureate levels. For these reasons, I believe that VU is uniquely positioned for success in delivering this initiative.

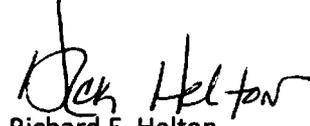
The State of Indiana, through the Indiana General Assembly, has committed \$5 million in cash to be applied toward construction. In addition, VU has committed \$6 million including other private funding sources, and the VU Foundation has committed an additional \$1 million. The City of Fort Branch has also committed \$350,000 toward the success of the project. Great support is also being provided by numerous private vendors throughout the region, including Toyota Motor Manufacturing, ATS, KHS, Berry Plastics, Gemtron, and numerous others. These partners are committed to assisting VU in the implementation of programming and support to both train and re-train statewide advanced manufacturing employees.

VU's *Advanced Manufacturing Initiative* supports the mission and vision of the institution. I believe it is unique in its ability to enhance the learning experience of both new and incumbent workers by

integrating industry emulation training and 21st Century workforce development skills. The initiative also supports the Governor's *Strategic Economic Development Plan* to "prepare our emerging workforce for success in the new economy through education and training that is aligned with industry-demanded skills and competencies." VU's initiative meets this need by aligning education with the needs of regional and statewide advanced manufacturing employers and creating effective pathways to education and the workforce.

I am pleased to endorse this request, and I kindly ask for your consideration in allowing Vincennes University, Indiana's first college, the opportunity to remain at the forefront of academic programming and training opportunities that support Hoosier advanced manufacturing industries.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Helton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "H".

Richard E. Helton
President

REH/pak