

GLENN "GT" THOMPSON
15TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

400 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3815
(202) 225-5121
(202) 225-5796 (FAX)

<http://thompson.house.gov>



AGRICULTURE
Chairman

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

January 17, 2024

Dr. Lenaire Ahlum
Founder, Executive Project Director
Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project
15 S 5th Street
Sunbury, PA 17801

Dear Dr. Ahlum:

I write to express my profound interest in the proposed Susquehanna Valley Community College, which would serve many of my constituents in Lycoming, Snyder, and Union counties. As a senior member of the United States House of Representative Committee on Education and the Workforce and Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I have seen firsthand the benefits of having high-quality, cost-effective, and localized education in our communities.

At a time when employers in nearly every industry are struggling with workforce challenges, it is imperative that both young and adult learners have opportunities that lead to high-skill, high-quality, and in-demand jobs in our communities. Community colleges, much like their career and technical counterparts, offer students unique flexibility, affordability, and smaller class sizes that allow for specialized and career-focused learning. This proposal seeks to offer an accessible, affordable pathway for individuals in the central Susquehanna Valley to climb the next rung on the ladder of opportunity, and it responds to regional and local workforce needs.

According to an Economic Impact study of this project, the college projects to contribute \$78.5 million in new economic activity to the region over 10 years – including supporting more than 270 jobs annually – and will yield a benefit-cost ratio of 3.5, ensuring a robust return on investment for any funds dedicated to this project. In 2022, there were approximately 22,854 high school students in the region that stands to be served by this college. Given this robust local student population, the analysis anticipates a total enrollment of at least 3,000 students within the first 10 years of operation.

This project stands to generate significant investments in education and workforce development in central Pennsylvania. I look forward to continuing to follow the progress of this project, and my office stands ready to provide assistance wherever possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Thompson".

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress