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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0915

May 2, 2025

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Florida Polytechnic University's Public Service Applied Innovation Laboratory (PSAIL) project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Florida Polytechnic University, located at 4700 Research Way, Lakeland, Florida 33805. Allocation of funding will support the development of PSAIL, a high-impact experiential learning program in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence (AI) for students at Florida Poly. The facility will be built within an existing unfinished space on campus and will support operations tied to the University's Network and Security Operations Center and AI Solutions Lab. This will prepare students for careers in Florida's growing tech and public safety sectors.

PSAIL also expands an existing partnership between Florida Poly and the Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), including direct collaboration with the Sheriff's AI Investigation Unit. This joint initiative allows students to develop advanced tools to address AI-related crime while ensuring human oversight and CJIS-compliant operations. This model has gained national attention as a first-of-its-kind effort to integrate AI into public safety operations through applied university partnerships.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will foster the development of innovative AI tools to combat emerging threats while providing students from Polk County and beyond with real-world experience. The initiative leverages Florida Poly's academic expertise and partnerships to serve both educational and community needs.

This project has a federal nexus because it is for purposes authorized in section 272 of title 15, United States Code, which establishes the functions of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including research, education, and partnerships to advance innovation and workforce readiness in cybersecurity and related technological fields.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress