

West Technical Education Center is seeking the support of local business and the community for its 2024-2025 Appropriations Request.

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To:Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>

Dr. Ford has asked us to share the following with our membership to support West Tech.

West Technical Education Center is seeking the support of local business and the community for its 2024-2025 Appropriations Request.

"Please copy and paste the letter below onto their own letterhead or onto their company's letterhead."

"You can also use the talking points in this letter to write your own letter, if you prefer."

To:

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

I am writing in support of the request appropriated this year by the Florida House and Senate for Career and Technical Education scholarships for students in Belle Glade at our West Technical Education Center. (LFIR #1037)

This funding assists citizens (living in one of the highest poverty areas in our state) to acquire critically-needed job skills and gain access to immediate career opportunities. This will lead to dependable, sustainable, year-round employment where few opportunities exist.

I am a member of the Glades Career Readiness Roundtable – a consortium comprising area business & civic leaders, Chamber of Commerce members, and economic forces such as Career Source and the Business Development Board. We meet monthly to strategize vocational training opportunities in order to meet the current and pressing needs of area employers.

Belle Glade is surrounded by fertile farmland and is, first and foremost, an agricultural community. As such, crops must be transported to processing plants, to warehouses, to businesses and to consumers. Industry-certified, licensed individuals with Commercial Driving Licenses are in great demand. (There are currently over 95 openings for truck drivers in a 35-mile radius of Belle Glade and many more openings for Home Health Aides.)

This appropriations request enables West Tech students to take advantage of the many Career and Technical Education offerings. We appreciate the bipartisan support of both the Florida House and Senate who deliberated on our request and we respectfully request your approval. With these funds, we can change lives while simultaneously growing Florida's economy.

Respectfully,

"Once completed, please send the letter on your letterhead to RMSOLNET@GMAIL.COM on or before FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024.

"The letters will be batched together and delivered together to the Governor's office."

"We cannot stress how important it is to produce letters of appeal from our community leaders, area businesses, and area organizations. You help West Tech tremendously by getting this letter out."

Thank you so very much for your time and attention.

Best regards,

Rita Solnet

Federal Lobbyist, School District of Palm Beach County

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