

Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

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Johnson Wins Federal Funds for Central Conn.

\$500,000 for CCSU's Manufacturing Jobs Program
\$300,000 for Farmington's UConn Health Center
\$100,000 for New Britain's Klingberg Family Centers

"Nancy is our greatest benefactor," Says UConn Medical Dean

WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today secured significant federal funding for area projects that help create manufacturing jobs, conduct cutting-edge medical research, and keep at-risk children on a track for success in school.

"Today is a great day for the New Britain area," Johnson said. "Central's ITBD program is a proven catalyst for small business growth and job creation, and this new funding will help strengthen Connecticut's manufacturing sector. Klingberg's contributions to the community and families are well known, and these new funds will improve Klingberg's programs to help at-risk children complete their education and set them on a path to a successful future. And this new funding for the UConn Health Center will improve our health care by advancing research that can prevent dangerous drug interactions."

Johnson secured the three projects in two annual spending bills that are set for U.S. House passage today. In letters earlier this year to U.S. Reps. Frank Wolf (R-VA) and David Hobson (R-OH), chairmen of key House Appropriations subcommittees, Johnson expressed her strong support for these projects and urged the Appropriations Committee to fund them.

"Nancy is our greatest benefactor," said Dr. Peter Deckers, Dean of the UConn School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs. "This funding is very important for our research efforts and will translate into better health care for the community. I greatly appreciate Congresswoman Johnson's continued and long-standing support for the UConn Health Center."

For UConn Health Center, Johnson secured \$300,000 to fund the purchase of a Live Cell Molecular Imaging System. Researchers believe this cutting-edge system will provide new insights into how specific cells respond to medications designed to treat specific illnesses.

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Johnson also secured \$100,000 for the Klingberg Family Centers's Delinquency Prevention Initiative. Klingberg's vocational programs at the Raymond Hill School on its New Britain campus aim to help students at risk of dropping out of school embrace learning, discover their interests and prepare them to achieve future goals. Klingberg's vocational programs include boat-building and maintenance; professional beauty care; writing and book publishing; culinary arts; and computer technology.

“We are delighted by this news of the funding for our program,” said Rosemarie Burton, Klingberg's President. “This program will really make a difference in the lives of so many children. We really appreciate Nancy's support and look forward to her next visit to the school.”

Johnson also secured \$500,000 for Central Connecticut State University's Institute for Technology and Small Business Development (ITBD) in New Britain. This successful and well-respected program provides technical training, skill development and industrial modernization support to area small businesses and manufacturers. The program's goal is to increase the competitiveness of Connecticut's manufacturing sector and create jobs in the region. It also serves as a link between university research programs and the economic community.

This new funding will support these critical training programs, improve distance learning capabilities and enhance ITBD's facility in downtown New Britain.

CCSU's President Dr. Jack Miller hailed the grant award as “a demonstration of confidence that the ITBD, with its sound business development processes, can help entrepreneurs create a successful business endeavor. Great things can develop when business and academia come together with a common goal.”

“We appreciate the support of everyone who worked to make this grant happen,” he added.

The funding for the UConn Health Center is included in the final spending bill for the Energy Department's biological research program, and the funding for Klingberg and CCSU are included in the final spending bill for the departments of Commerce, Justice and State.

The Senate is expected to consider both bills soon. Once they pass the Senate, the bills will go the President's desk for his signature.

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