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DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND
COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
133 Dirksen Senate Office Building
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6029

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
128 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Senators Durbin, Collins, Inouye, and Cochran:

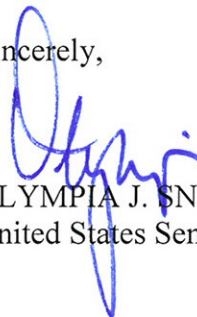
I am writing to respectfully request your support for the funding of attached items in the Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill.

I certify that neither I nor any of my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the FY2011 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

I appreciate your serious consideration of these funding requests. On the following pages, I have provided the answers to your specific questions about the projects.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

AUBURN
TWO GREAT FALLS PLAZA
SUITE 7B
AUBURN, ME 04210
(207) 786-2451

AUGUSTA
40 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 408C
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
ONE CUMBERLAND PLACE, SUITE 306
BANGOR, ME 04401
(207) 945-0432

BIDDEFORD
227 MAIN STREET
BIDDEFORD, ME 04005
(207) 282-4144

PORTLAND
3 CANAL PLAZA, SUITE 601
PORTLAND, ME 04101
(207) 874-0883
MAINE RELAY SERVICE
TDD 1-955-3323

PRESQUE ISLE
169 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 3
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

FUNDING REQUEST #1

(1) Name and Phone Number of Sponsoring Senator's Staff Contact(s):

Arran Haynes 4-6879

(2) Relevant Federal Department or Agency and Account:

Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses.

(3) Project Name:

Entrepreneurship: Maine's Legacy Builds a New Economy

(4) Name of Organization/Group/Entity Involved in Seeking the Requested Funding:

Organization:

University of Maine
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04468-5703

Organizational Contact:

Jason Harkins, Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship
207-581-1999
jason.harkins@umit.maine.edu

(5) Description and Justification of Project:

The primary objective of this project is to explore and develop a method for supporting rural entrepreneurship through New Venture Team (NVT) development, skill training, and mentoring which creates the necessary entrepreneurial infrastructure for self-sustaining growth.

Specifically, UMaine plans to evaluate the viability of entrepreneurial ventures within the seven sectors prioritized by the state of Maine and assess the requirements for developing new venture clusters within the State that leverage the existing entrepreneurial spirit. Secondly, they aim to develop policies and procedures for encouraging entrepreneurial venture team formation further in Maine and other rural states across the Nation. Clusters allow entrepreneurs, be they new ventures or innovative young businesses, to not only acquire necessary financial resources but also acquire social and human capital through the creation of NVTs, which are critical because of their relative success of team-based ventures compared to solo entrepreneurs.

- (6) **Amount of funding being requested in FY2011:**

\$1,000,000

- (7) **Minimum amount of FY2011 funding needed to begin, or sustain, this project, in the event the full amount requested cannot be approved:**

The minimum funding necessary to establish a program is \$500,000 for FY2011.

- (8) **Total amount of funding needed to complete the project: For multi-year projects, please provide an annual breakdown of funding needed in future years.**

\$1,000,000

- (9) **Federal funding history and source(s):**

The project has NOT received any federal appropriation funding in the past.

- (10) **Was a similar request submitted for FY2010 or any prior years?**

No.

- (11) **Is this project included in the President's FY2011 budget request?**

No.

- (12) **Is this request being submitted to any other Appropriations subcommittees?**

No.

- (13) **What (if any) are the sources and amounts of matching funds or contributions of financial partners who support the project?**

The Principal Investigators intend to seek out other avenues of private and public funding for incorporation into university programming.

- (14) **(a) Which Federal department or agency (if successful) will oversee use of the funds for this project?**

Small Business Administration.

- (b) Does that department, agency, or entity support the project?**

Unknown.

- (15) What other organizations might be expected to support this request? What other organizations might be expected to oppose this request? Why?**

None are known to oppose.

- (16) If the requested project is proposed to be included in the District of Columbia title to be conducted in the District of Columbia, has the District of Columbia Government endorsed the project?**

N/A.

- (17) Are you requesting inclusion of specific language in the bill or report?**

No.

FUNDING REQUEST #2

(1) Name and Phone Number of Sponsoring Senator's Staff Contact(s):

Arran Haynes 4-6879

(2) Relevant Federal Department or Agency and Account:

Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses.

(3) Project Name:

Undergraduate Research Center: Phase Two

(4) Name of Organization/Group/Entity Involved in Seeking the Requested Funding:

Organization: University of Southern Maine

Organizational Contact:

Bob Caswell
University of Southern Maine
246 Deering Avenue
Portland, ME 04102
207-780-4200
caswell@usm.maine.edu

(5) Description and Justification of Project:

To offer undergraduates the type of research experience they deserve so that they can be ready for work or graduate school, USM must have adequate facilities. These facilities also will allow faculty to secure competitive research grants in a challenging national funding environment and readily engage students in this work. Specifically, Phase Two will include:

- 1) Completion and fit out of a second, multi-user wet lab and two smaller rooms for student work.
- 2) Shared equipment and research instrumentation to support a range of faculty-student projects.
- 3) Supplies and materials for basic research projects.
- 4) Funds to support an initial cohort of 8-10 student research fellows engaged in year-long program activities under the guidance of a faculty coordinator.

USM already has a track record of attracting talented undergraduates and preparing them for science-based careers and/or graduate school. This project will greatly enhance the university's ability to continue such efforts and to give our students opportunities to compete nationally.

- (6) Amount of funding being requested in FY2011:**

\$850,000

- (7) Minimum amount of FY2011 funding needed to begin, or sustain, this project, in the event the full amount requested cannot be approved:**

\$550,000

- (8) Total amount of funding needed to complete the project: For multi-year projects, please provide an annual breakdown of funding needed in future years.**

\$850,000

- (9) Federal funding history and source(s):**

FY2010 USM received \$850,000 for Phase One.

- (10) Was a similar request submitted for FY2010 or any prior years?**

Phase One was submitted and funded.

- (11) Is this project included in the President's FY2011 budget request?**

No.

- (12) Is this request being submitted to any other Appropriations subcommittees?**

No.

- (13) What (if any) are the sources and amounts of matching funds or contributions of financial partners who support the project?**

The University will be seeking other avenues of private and public funding.

- (14) (a) Which Federal department or agency (if successful) will oversee use of the funds for this project?**

Small Business Administration.

- (b) Does that department, agency, or entity support the project?**

Unknown

- (15) What other organizations might be expected to support this request? What other organizations might be expected to oppose this request? Why?**

The University has submitted letters in support of the request from local business leaders.

- (16) If the requested project is proposed to be included in the District of Columbia title to be conducted in the District of Columbia, has the District of Columbia Government endorsed the project?**

N/A.

- (17) Are you requesting inclusion of specific language in the bill or report?**

No.

FUNDING REQUEST #3

(1) Name and Phone Number of Sponsoring Senator's Staff Contact(s):

Arran Haynes 4-6879

(2) Relevant Federal Department or Agency and Account:

Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses.

(3) Project Name:

Rural Business Energizer Program

(4) Name of Organization/Group/Entity Involved in Seeking the Requested Funding:

Organization: Washington Hancock Community Agency

Organizational Contact:

Keith Small
2 Maple Street
Milbridge, ME 04658
207-664-2424, ext. 4453
ksmall@whcacap.org

(5) Description and Justification of Project:

The Rural Business Energizer Program will jumpstart business development in Down East Maine by helping entrepreneurs launch new ventures that will stimulate the economy for years to come. RBEP provides business and marketing plan training, technical assistance, networking, and financial assistance to microenterprises to help them grow, become profitable, and create jobs. WHCA has served more than 400 businesses since 1996, helping them to create hundreds of jobs with training that is tailored to the rural business climate. Rural Business Energizer will provide intensive business training to 60 entrepreneurs; short-term, issue-specific technical assistance to 25 entrepreneurs; and business loans to at least 15 entrepreneurs. In all, RBEP will serve 100 businesses in Down East Maine.

Most participants in Down East Business Alliance's training programs create stable microenterprises and succeed at a rate of more than two times that of the national average. According to a Small Business Administration study conducted in 2007, 44 percent of small businesses are still in existence after four years and only 31 percent are still in business after seven years. **Of those who have completed Down East Business Alliance's microenterprise training, 70 percent are still in business after five years.**

(6) Amount of funding being requested in FY2011:

\$ 250,000

(7) Minimum amount of FY2011 funding needed to begin, or sustain, this project, in the event the full amount requested cannot be approved:

\$200,000

(8) Total amount of funding needed to complete the project: For multi-year projects, please provide an annual breakdown of funding needed in future years.

\$250,000

(9) Federal funding history and source(s):

Appropriations funding FY2009 of \$237,500; Appropriations funding FY2010 of \$250,000; Recovery Act funding (ARRA) of \$56,750.

(10) Was a similar request submitted for FY2010 or any prior years?

In both FY2010 and FY2009

(11) Is this project included in the President's FY2011 budget request?

No.

(12) Is this request being submitted to any other Appropriations subcommittees?

No.

(13) What (if any) are the sources and amounts of matching funds or contributions of financial partners who support the project?

N/A

(14) (a) Which Federal department or agency (if successful) will oversee use of the funds for this project?

Small Business Administration.

(b) Does that department, agency, or entity support the project?

Unknown

- (15) What other organizations might be expected to support this request? What other organizations might be expected to oppose this request? Why?**

None are known to be opposed.

- (16) If the requested project is proposed to be included in the District of Columbia title to be conducted in the District of Columbia, has the District of Columbia Government endorsed the project?**

N/A.

- (17) Are you requesting inclusion of specific language in the bill or report?**

No.