

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) announced that a bid for federal funding for the Rochester Area Colleges Center for Excellence in Science and Math recently passed a key hurdle when it was approved by the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science last week.

The Center, which was created in partnership with 19 colleges in the Rochester area, is one step closer to \$500,000 in funding that will allow them to continue vital programming encouraging students to pursue math and science courses to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow. Funding would double the size of their already successful program.

“We are living in a knowledge-based economy and it’s so important that we prepare our children for success by training them for the jobs of tomorrow,” said Slaughter. “I’m pleased that our local colleges have come together to encourage more students to study math and science in preparation for college. This is an important investment in our future workforce and a vital investment in the future of our region.”

The Rochester Area College (RAC) Center for Excellence in Math and Science was created to leverage the resources of the RAC’s 19 area colleges to address the national crisis in the quality and quantity of students pursuing science, technology, engineering or mathematics based education and careers.

The Center, which is headquartered on Nazareth College’s campus, offers extra-curricular programs, teacher training and mentoring services, all designed to encourage students to pursue math and science. It plans to use the funding as part of an overall effort which when fully funded will improve the services already in place and double the size of the program, raising the number of impacted students to 30,000. In addition, the funding will help create 4 new jobs and protect another 2.

“The Rochester Area Colleges have had great success in our Center for Excellence in Math and Science which develops and delivers programs designed to increase the quality and quantity of the student talent pool pursuing curricula in math, science and related technical fields. This area of study is vital to the intellectual vitality and economic growth of our country in the coming decades,” said John A. Martin, President of the Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern

Seminary. “We are so appreciative of Congresswoman Slaughter’s concern for and participation in this project. She fully understands the importance of the Center and the strategic role it plays in the Rochester region and all of Western New York.”

While located in Rochester, the training and development will have a direct impact on the Towns of East Rochester, Fairport, Greece, Hamlin, Hilton, Holley, Irondequoit, and Kendall.