

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

September 10, 2024

Gina Raimondo
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by the American Federation of Teachers Education Foundation (AFTEF) to the National Semiconductor Technology Center's (NSTC) Workforce Partner Alliance program for funding to strengthen an existing curricular framework that prepares high school students for careers in the semiconductor industry in New York and extend the implementation of this curricula to Minnesota and Michigan. This proposal is crucial to ensuring our nation's young people are prepared to enter and thrive in the growing domestic semiconductor industry, which is vital for America's economic and technological future.

AFTEF's project, in partnership with the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), addresses the need for a skilled workforce for the rapidly expanding semiconductor industry in the U.S., particularly in New York, Michigan, and Minnesota. By enhancing and strategically implementing an existing curricular framework, this project seeks to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience required to meet the growing workforce demands of the semiconductor industry. Specifically, this project calls for a multi-year program embedded within core subjects and elective courses, complemented by industry-recognized certifications developed in collaboration with industry partners like Micron Technology, Inc. Such active involvement of industry partners ensures that this project is well-positioned to maximize student learning and employment outcomes.

The project will launch in ten New York districts in Fall 2024, with 25 teachers piloting the framework and an anticipated reach of 600 high school students during the 2024-25 academic year. As the initiative expands into Michigan and Minnesota, an additional 60 teachers are expected to participate in the 2025-26 academic year, extending the program's reach to 1,440 students across all locations. By the end of the 2025-26 academic year, around 1,000 students will have graduated high school with the foundational skills to pursue further education or enter the semiconductor industry workforce, with at least 1,000 students graduating annually thereafter.

In Minnesota, this project will focus on the high-voltage semiconductor work of Polar Semiconductors. In Michigan, the project will complement Detroit's commitment to the microelectronics industry, which is critical to electric vehicle battery manufacturing. By tailoring the curriculum to meet the specific industry needs of these states, the program will not only equip students with relevant skills but also strengthen the local semiconductor workforce.

I firmly believe that this project will play a crucial role in preparing future generations for success in bolstering America's leadership in semiconductor manufacturing. I applaud AFTEF's foresight in advancing this proposal and sincerely hope it is met with your approval. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator