



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

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ALEXANDER EARMARKS PROJECTS FOR ULM, LASALLE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, AVIATION MUSEUM, EVEN START EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

EARMARKS TO HELP ADVANCE, IMPROVE 5TH DISTRICT PROJECTS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today announced that he earmarked funding for several 5th District projects in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (Labor-H) Appropriations Subcommittee bill.

The House bill still awaits final approval along with the Senate's bill, and then the details from both bills must be worked out in joint conference.

Alexander secured funding for the following:

University of Louisiana at Monroe received \$1 million for renovations to its College of Pharmacy and \$300,000 for an electron microscope.

This project will renovate the former State Farm Building, which was recently purchased by the State of Louisiana for ULM's College of Pharmacy. It will allow ULM, which has the only publicly supported College of Pharmacy in the state, to provide state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories, and clinical space needed to properly support and expand its existing Health Science programs, which train various types of medical service professionals.

This microscope will support innovative nano-structural and compositional diagnostics in pharmaceutical and biomedical/biological research at the ULM College of Pharmacy and help ULM to stay abreast of the latest advances in research and development.

"Dr. Cofer has worked hard to improve this valuable program (college of pharmacy) and this earmark is an investment in higher education for ULM's faculty and students," Alexander said. **"Our universities in north Louisiana faced tough times in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Now, with the announcement of this federal funding, our universities and students can get back on track and move forward."**

LaSalle Parish School Board (Olla) received \$550,000 for books, materials and equipment.

November 23, 2004 a tornado struck the Olla area. The tornado hit LaSalle High School, constructed in 1950, causing major damage to the contents and structure. The school is an important gathering place for the community to come together. It is vital for the school to be

rebuilt to secure pride in the community and students of LaSalle High School, as well as to provide a strong education for the youth of the Olla area.

"Two years ago, the residents of LaSalle Parish were hit hard by a tornado," Alexander said. "The school in Olla was destroyed and the faculty, staff and students were left with the rubble. I tried to work with FEMA, but it seemed as if nobody heard my concerns. I took it upon myself to return to Washington and try to earmark funding for this project. I promised the residents and students that I would do all that I could on the federal level, and I'm here to say we (Alexander and staff) came through."

Aviation and Military Museum (Monroe) received \$130,000 for equipment and display cases.

The project will complete the full reclamation of the remaining 6,255 sq. ft. of the 64-year-old historic building that currently houses the museum in one 3,230 sq.-ft. wing (restored in 2000). The building is one of our area's most significant historic structures, the last remaining classroom building used during WWII when Monroe was home to the Selman Field Army/Air Force Navigation School, then the largest facility for training navigators and navigation personnel in the United States, ultimately graduating over 15,000.

"This museum has recorded a pivotal time in our nation's history," Alexander said. "More importantly, it documents the efforts of north Louisiana's brave men and women. This museum is something north Louisiana is proud of, and I'm proud that federal funding was earmarked for it."

Northeast Louisiana Even Start program received \$350,000.

The Northeast Louisiana Regional Even Start (NELRES) Consortium operates under the auspice of the Ouachita Parish School Board in partnership with the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The NELRES Consortium operates a model comprehensive family literacy program providing services to approximately 300 impoverished families per year through nine sites in eight parishes (Ouachita, Union, Lincoln, Richland, Morehouse, West Carroll, East Carroll and Tensas) in the rural and urban areas of northeast Louisiana.

"An investment in our educational systems is an investment in our economy," Alexander said.

"By equipping young men and women with an education, we open up more windows of opportunity for success. This program (NELRES) adheres to this mission."