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Shuster Announces Important Grants to Juniata College *Funds Will Enhance the Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (JCEL)*

Washington, D.C. – Today, **Congressman Bill Shuster** joined representatives from Juniata College, the Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), and the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission to announce two separate grants totaling \$952,000 for the expansion and renovation of the Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership’s Sill Business Incubator.

“The announcement of these grants will make a huge positive impact on the economy of Huntingdon County and its surrounding areas,” Shuster said. “The decision to make an investment of this size shows that central Pennsylvania is primed for economic growth.”

“I want to thank Juniata College, the Economic Development Administration, and the Appalachian Regional Commission for their continued support and dedication to our area,” Shuster added. “Their help in this project will create jobs and a better standard of living for the people of Huntingdon County.”

The renovation, scheduled to be completed in 2009, will create sufficient space for nine full-time business enterprises and allow for five part-time (or hotel-style) tenants. According to JCEL projections, as tenants who start their businesses in the incubator outgrow the facility and move to larger buildings in the region, the incubator can serve more than 50 new businesses and help create more than 100 jobs.

"The federal grants to expand our business incubator will provide the opportunity to expand the economy of our region to our full potential," said Thomas R. Kepple, president of Juniata College. "We've already created nearly 10 student businesses and helped local entrepreneurs realize their dreams."

“Business incubators serve an important purpose to emerging and ‘second-stage’ small businesses, which are poised to take the next step into becoming a large company,” Shuster said. “Companies like these can use the incubator to develop strategies, test markets and share information with their industry peers and succeed in today’s dynamic economy.”

Since its completion in 2003, the JCEL facility has provided entrepreneurial resources, support and encouragement to members of the Juniata College community and residents of the greater

Huntingdon County area. The Sill Business Incubator provides entrepreneurs the ability to collaborate together, to share information and to receive entrepreneurial support to aid in the expansion of existing business ventures and the creation of new endeavors.

Juniata will contribute \$552,000 to the project. The incubator renovation also will feature the installation of two specially equipped "wet labs" that can be used for entrepreneurs pursuing business ideas in biotechnology. The grants, \$200,000 from ARC and \$752,000 from EDA represent an important investment into the economy of Huntingdon County.

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