

## **News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)**

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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### **House Grants Spratt's Request for \$650,000 for York Tech Metalworking Center**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced that the House today granted his request for \$650,000 for York Technical College in Rock Hill to establish a Precision Metalworking Center of Excellence.

The National Precision Metalworking Center of Excellence will use academics, manufacturing machinery supplier partnerships, and research and development projects with metalworking companies to strengthen the skills, capacity, and competitiveness of the U.S. metalworking infrastructure.

“York Technical College trains and retrain thousands of employees annually in my district,” said Spratt, “and the economic impact of this training is substantial. The Precision Metalworking Center will only enhance this impact by making York Tech a national leader in metalworking training, teaching people skills that they can then carry back to the evolving manufacturing workplace in South Carolina. With 7.5% unemployment in York County, the need for the center is clear.”

The Metalworking Center will focus on technology research, faculty development, National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) accreditation and credentials expansion, and recruiting and placing personnel in precision metalworking careers.

“For a long time, the people of Rock Hill have recognized York Tech’s contribution to technological development,” said Spratt, “but this project could elevate York Tech to the national stage. The National Precision Metalworking Center for Excellence will provide a forum for industry cooperation and a first class metalworking model to benchmark the best metalworking business practices. This is the type of project that can really put Rock Hill on the map.”

The \$650,000 was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Act, which passed the House on November 20. The president is expected to sign the bill soon. The state has contributed \$2.5 million to the project, the county \$1 million, and corporate sponsors have given \$4.5 million.

“Establishing the National Precision Metalworking Center for Excellence will provide more individuals with the opportunity to obtain high-skilled and high-paying

manufacturing jobs in York County,” said Spratt. “I am excited to have played a part in this important effort.”

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