## News Release from Congresswoman

## Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

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## Johnson Helps Secure \$1.8M Grant for Tunxis

Funds to Improve Student and Graduate Achievement

NEW BRITAIN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced she helped secure a five year, \$1.8 million federal education grant for Farmington's Tunxis Community College. The U.S. Department of Education grant will help Tunxis improve student achievement both before and after graduation.

After Tunxis' previous application received an unfairly low score, Johnson wrote to and met with Assistant Secretary Karen A. Johnson of the Department of Education to support Tunxis' current application.

"This grant is tremendous news for Tunxis students and for our state's economy," Johnson said. "Community colleges like Tunxis prepare Connecticut residents for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This grant will strengthen Tunxis and help ensure it gives its students the tools they need to compete and succeed in their careers."

"This grant is a major victory for Tunxis and for Connecticut's educational system as a whole," said Cathryn Addy, Ph.D., President of Tunxis Community College. "Securing these funds was a case study in perseverance and teamwork ranging from Farmington, Connecticut to Washington, D.C. and we are very grateful for Congresswoman Nancy Johnson's tenacious efforts to champion our application."

Tunxis will receive a \$1,821,675 over the next five years through the U.S. Department of Education Strengthen Institutions grant program. The college will receive \$364,280 in the next fiscal year. Tunxis' current operating budget is just over \$22 million.

The grant will allow Tunxis to create an Office of Institutional Effectiveness. This office will coordinate the development and implementation of a comprehensive, college-wide assessment process to measure student achievement during their studies and after they enter the workforce. Key measures of success include increasing retention, course completion, and graduation rates, as well as employer satisfaction with Tunxis graduates, specifically with their technology skills.