



March 19, 2026

The Honorable Greg Murphy, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Murphy,

On behalf of ECU Health, I am writing to express our strong support for East Carolina University's Fiscal Year 2027 Community Project Funding request for ARC: AI for Rural Competitiveness through the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) account.

ECU Health serves as the primary academic health system for Eastern North Carolina and works closely with East Carolina University to advance research, innovation, and workforce development across the region. ARC represents an important opportunity to strengthen data infrastructure, applied artificial intelligence, and standards-driven analytics that can improve healthcare delivery and economic competitiveness in rural communities.

ARC directly aligns with the priorities of the NIST STRS account by supporting the development of trusted data frameworks, interoperable data environments, and AI evaluation capabilities that strengthen the reliability and usability of complex datasets. Through this initiative, ECU and ECU Health will collaborate to integrate de-identified clinical data, quality and performance metrics, and regional socioeconomic indicators within a secure, standards-based environment designed to support measurement science, data quality, and responsible AI applications.

This capability is particularly important for rural regions like Eastern North Carolina, where healthcare systems, businesses, and community organizations often lack access to the analytical infrastructure necessary to translate data into actionable insights. ARC's standards-driven approach will enable partners to develop and evaluate AI tools that support operational decision-making, improve healthcare access, and enhance regional economic resilience while ensuring strong safeguards for data security, privacy, and transparency.

ECU Health is especially enthusiastic about ARC's initial pilot applications in rural healthcare analytics. By combining clinical data with broader regional intelligence—such as workforce trends, economic indicators, and social determinants of health, the initiative will allow researchers and healthcare leaders to model complex rural health systems and identify strategies that improve outcomes for patients across North Carolina's Third Congressional District.

ECU Health is committed to serving as an active partner in ARC's development and implementation. We will contribute subject-matter expertise, data resources, and operational insight to ensure that ARC's research and innovation activities

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produce practical solutions that improve healthcare delivery while contributing to broader national priorities in data standards, AI evaluation, and applied measurement science.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your commitment to strengthening innovation, healthcare, and economic opportunity across Eastern North Carolina. We respectfully encourage your support for ECU's ARC request in the FY 2027 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Floyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "F".

W. Brian Floyd, RN, MBA
Chief Operating Officer
ECU Health



North Carolina General Assembly House of Representatives

REPRESENTATIVE TIM REEDER, M.D.

PITT – DISTRICT 9

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Dear Congressman Murphy,

I write to express my strong support for East Carolina University's Fiscal Year 2027 Community Project Funding request for ARC: AI for Rural Competitiveness through the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Scientific and Technical Research and Services (STRS) account.

As a physician and a member of the North Carolina General Assembly representing rural communities in Eastern North Carolina, I see every day how our region's healthcare systems, workforce pipelines, and economic development strategies are deeply interconnected. Rural communities must often make complex investment decisions with limited data, yet the consequences of those decisions can affect healthcare access, job creation, and long-term economic stability.

The ARC initiative will provide a powerful new capability to support targeted, evidence-based investments in rural communities. By integrating healthcare utilization data, workforce and economic indicators, and other regional datasets within a secure, standards-driven artificial intelligence platform, ARC will help policymakers, healthcare leaders, and economic developers better understand how policy choices and investments affect outcomes in rural regions.

This type of analytical infrastructure is essential for ensuring that public resources: whether at the local, state, or Federal level, are deployed in ways that maximize impact for rural communities. ARC's ability to link clinical data with broader economic and demographic information will allow leaders to evaluate potential interventions, identify areas of greatest need, and design strategies that strengthen healthcare access, workforce development, and economic opportunity across Eastern North Carolina.

The initiative also aligns well with the mission of the NIST STRS account by advancing data standards, measurement science, and responsible AI applications that improve the reliability and interoperability of complex datasets. By building these capabilities in a rural setting, ARC will help ensure that national innovation efforts reflect the realities and needs of communities outside of major metropolitan areas.

East Carolina University and ECU Health have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to serving rural North Carolina. ARC builds on that foundation by creating tools that can inform smarter policy decisions and more strategic investments for communities across North Carolina's Third Congressional District.

Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to strengthening healthcare and economic opportunities in Eastern North Carolina. I respectfully encourage your support for ECU's ARC request during the Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Reeder, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tim Reeder, MD
North Carolina House of Representatives
District 9, Pitt County