

Dr. Martha Santiago
Commissioner, District 4
Chair



Board of County Commissioners

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March 3, 2026

The Honorable Laurel Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
1118 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Polk JA BizTown and Finance Park Discovery Center

Dear Congresswoman Laurel Lee:

On behalf of the entire Polk County Board of County Commissioners, we are writing to express our strong support for the Polk JA BizTown and Finance Park Discovery Center and the invaluable educational programs that they provide to young people in our community. So much to the extent that Polk County has recently committed \$200,000 towards related facility construction efforts.

As an organization dedicated to preparing students for the challenges of the future, JA BizTown and Finance Park offers students unique hands-on experiences that bridge the gap between the classroom and the real world. Through immersive activities, students are given the opportunity to learn about personal finance, entrepreneurship, and business operations, equipping them with critical skills for success in the 21st century.

The importance of financial literacy and economic understanding cannot be overstated, especially in today's fast-changing world. By fostering an early understanding of these concepts, the Discovery Center helps shape future leaders who are not only financially responsible but also socially conscious and ready to contribute to the economy in meaningful ways.

Moreover, the experiences offered by the center are unparalleled in their ability to engage students and provide practical knowledge that will serve them throughout their lives. Whether learning how to manage a budget, create a business plan, or collaborate with peers, students are prepared to face real-world challenges with confidence and competence.

Equal Opportunity Employer

We commend your efforts in making financial education accessible and relevant for today's youth. We have no doubt that the JA BizTown and Finance Park Discovery Center will continue to make a significant impact on future generations. Please know that you have Polk's full support in your federal mission and in ensuring that these programs remain a vital part of local communities.

Thanks again for your commitment to educating and empowering students. We look forward to seeing the continued success of the center and its programs.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Santiago, Chair
County Commissioner, District 4

Becky Troutman
Commissioner, District 1

Rick Wilson
Commissioner, District 2

Bill Braswell
Commissioner, District 3

Michael H. Scott
Commissioner, District 5