



**MISSISSIPPI STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

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April 28, 2021

Congressman Michael Guest  
418 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Guest,

We sincerely appreciate your interest in MSU's Meridian Campus and the exciting new Physician Assistants Program. The request for the patient assessment lab and simulation rooms, if funded, would have a tremendous impact on the program. We are confident of the potential for a \$1M match from foundation sources. However, in the event this does not come to fruition, I wanted you to know that MSU designated funds have been designated to fulfill the match obligation.

Further, we are also acknowledging that the project is well along in the design phase and commit to being able to complete the project within one year of receipt of funds.

Again, thank you for your support! Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David R. Shaw, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY™

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April 27, 2021

Congressman Michael Guest  
U.S. House of Representatives  
418 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20151

Dear Congressman Guest,

Please accept my sincere gratitude for reviewing the attached proposal to enhance our Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program. As you are aware, Mississippi State University is proud to have the first PA program at a Mississippi Institution of Higher Learning. This program aligns well with our Land Grant mission of making a significant difference in bettering the lives of Mississippians through addressing health disparity.

In addition to supplying more practitioners for one of the nation's most underserved states, we will also be improving earning potential for those who complete our program. US News and World Report recently ranked the PA profession at the top of the list in three categories: Best Jobs, Best STEM Jobs, and Best Health Care Jobs. The average starting salary for Physician Assistants is around \$100,000 per year, which will undoubtedly impact tax revenue in the state. Furthermore, it will increasingly enhance Mississippi State University's ranking as the state's leading return on educational investment as cited by SmartAsset. In short, this is a safe investment with an assured return.

Finally, I don't think a town in Mississippi would be more supportive of this emerging program than Meridian. As demonstrated in attached letters, we have the overwhelming support of a thriving medical community. Additionally, local donors and foundations pledged more than \$1 million in startup funds to get this program off the ground, which was combined with a match from the university. I have no doubt in our ability to secure matching funds for this project in the same way.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this proposal and all you are doing to make the lives of Mississippians better.

Gratefully,

Terry Dale Cruse, Ed.D.  
Associate Vice President  
Head of Campus – MSU Meridian



P. O. Box 5187  
Meridian, Mississippi 39301

601/703-9614

April 27, 2021

Congressman Michael Guest  
U. S. House of Representatives  
418 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Guest,

I am writing to express my support for The Physician Assistant (PA) program at Mississippi State University – Meridian. Rush has been a major proponent of the program at MSU-Meridian due to the well documented need for primary care providers in rural America, and more specifically Mississippi. We have committed to providing support and clinical training to the students of the program and will continue to support MSU-Meridian as they grow and enhance the program in the years to come.

Congressman Guest, as you know Rush Health Systems consists of 7 hospitals and more than 30 clinics in East Central Mississippi and West Alabama. Our mission is clearly focused on providing quality healthcare to the citizens of the communities we serve and the PA program at MSI-Meridian is another key piece of the puzzle for the future of providing that care. Thank you for your support of Rush Health Systems and of Mississippi State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larkin Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "L" and "K".

Larkin Kennedy  
President/CEO  
Rush Health Systems



## Joseph, Elizabeth

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**From:** John Anderson <janderson@andersonregional.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:11 PM  
**To:** Cruse, Terry  
**Subject:** ARHS Commitment to MSU-Meridian PA program

Dear Dr. Cruse,

I am writing in support of Anderson Regional Health System's ongoing commitment to the Mississippi State University – Meridian Physician Assistant (PA) program. The program is an invaluable resource to Meridian, as well as the surrounding region, in the education, training and deployment of advanced practice providers to meet the continued healthcare workforce shortage in rural Mississippi.

Since its inception, Anderson has supported the PA program as a community advisor and continues to serve as a clinical training site for physician assistant students. Anderson is extremely proud to be an active partner with MSU-Meridian in advancing healthcare training opportunities and supports all MSU-Meridian efforts to gain educational resources that further develop healthcare provider training.

The success of the PA program is critical in meeting the advanced clinical provider needs of this area. We at Anderson stand committed to the program's efforts.

John G. Anderson



**John G. Anderson, FACHE**  
**President/Chief Executive Officer**

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