**Economic Development**
CITY OF AUSTIN

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April 3, 2019

Austin Community College
Dr. Mary Harris, Vice President for Institutional Planning,
Development & Evaluation
5930 Middle Fiskville Road
Austin, Texas 78752

Re: Letter of Support - ACC IMPACT Lab EDA-HDQ-OIE-2019-2005942: 2019 i6 Challenge

Dear Dr. Harris,

On behalf of the City of Austin, Texas, Economic Development Department, I am pleased to express enthusiastic support for Austin Community College to create the Innovative Manufacturing Prototype Acceleration Central Texas (IMPACT) Lab. This innovation center focused on physical product development and manufacturing will further facilitate collaboration between the local manufacturers, the universities, the entrepreneurial and established business communities and the investors within the city of Austin and strengthen our city's position as a leader in the manufacturing industry.

A physical space will provide a resource currently unavailable to early-stage manufacturing companies, as well as an avenue for connecting the above-mentioned entities. Supporting manufacturing companies will also lead to middle skill job creation: a key strategy for lifting individuals in Central Texas out of poverty outlined in the Austin Metro Area Master Community Workforce Plan.

This project would provide an invaluable resource to the Austin economy and its residents. Should the project receive funding, the City's Economic Development Department has identified $50,000 per year for a duration of three years. **Funding is contingent on City Council approval, which can be considered by Council should the award be granted to the Austin Community College.**

We look forward to working with Austin Community College on this endeavor.

Please feel free to reach out directly at 512-974-3045 or by contacting Natalie Betts, Program Manager II at 512-974-9235 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Giello
Interim Director