



Division of Higher Education

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Johnny Key
Secretary

Maria Markham, Ph.D.
Director

July 6, 2022

The Honorable David Wallace, Chair
The Honorable David Hillman, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council – Personnel Subcommittee
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Wallace and Representative Hillman:

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 21-5-1409 (c) (1) (B), I am requesting your review of a salary adjustment of more than two percent (2%) provided for all classified employees at East Arkansas Community College (EACC) for Fiscal Year 2022-23 due to a request of a 2.8% COLA for all classified, non-classified and faculty employees. A letter from EACC is attached to provide details and justification regarding this request.

Should you require additional information, please let me know and I will be happy to provide.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maria Markham'.

Maria Markham, Ph. D.
Director

June 6, 2022

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Higher Education
423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201-3818

Dear Dr. Markham:

Please consider this formal request for East Arkansas Community College to issue a 2.8% cost of living adjustment (COLA) and a merit increase, also averaging 2.8%, for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. As part of this COLA, faculty members will receive a \$1,200 increase to the faculty salary scale as well as a one-time \$700 bonus. This increase was approved unanimously by the college's Board of Trustees on May 19, 2022. With current inflation rates exceeding 8%, it is critical that the college allow for a COLA of greater than 2% in an effort to remain relevant with current economic conditions.

East Arkansas Community College has budgeted for a 4.71% increase in unrestricted revenue for the 2022-2023 fiscal year due to an increase in productivity funding as well as a \$3 increase in mandatory fees. Due to planned administrative restructuring, East Arkansas Community College will only recognize a 0.56% increase in personnel expenses as a result of the 2.8% COLA and merit categories (attached). This small expense combined with the projected increase in revenue allows the college the ability to provide a merit increase and a COLA of greater than 2% for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

As President of East Arkansas Community College, I certify that the college maintains a sufficient budget for funding the aforementioned COLA and merit.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cathie Cline
President

East Arkansas Community College
2.8% Cost of Living Adjustment Request

E&G and Auxiliary	Classified	30,060
	Non-Classified	69,264
	Faculty	65,844
		<hr/> 165,168
Provisional	Classified	4,057
	Non-Classified	14,916
	Faculty	4,373
		<hr/> 23,346
Total Estimated Cost		<hr/> 188,514
	<i>before organizational restructuring</i>	