

September 21, 2021

Economic Development Administration
Via Coastal Regional Commission, Darien, GA

The College of Coastal Georgia strongly supports the Coastal Regional Commission's application for assistance through the Economic Development Administration's Build Back Better program to fund needed infrastructure improvements for the development of Spaceport Camden.

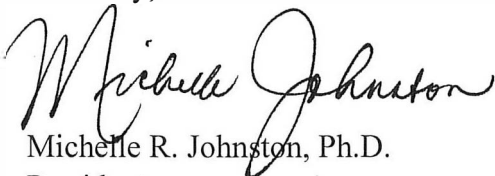
The development of Spaceport Camden is a unique opportunity for the southeastern Georgia coastal region to develop a high technology center that will not only accelerate the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic but also add to the local economy's resilience from future economic adversity.

The commercial spaceflight industry at Spaceport Camden will provide many unique opportunities for students at the College of Coastal Georgia, the only four-year college in the area, and the Camden Center, its satellite facility located minutes from the site of the spaceport. With a spaceport nearby it is expected that students at the college in programs ranging from business and management to mathematics or environmental science, could benefit from internships and collaboration with the Spaceport and companies associated in this high tech endeavor. A majority of the students at the college come from the local region and often desire to remain in the area following completion of their degree program. High-paying, high-tech jobs associated with Spaceport Camden would enable our students to remain in this area following graduation thus contributing to further economic growth of the entire region.

The college already has a long history working with federal, state, and local government agencies in this region and looks forward to continuing that same type of relationship in support of and in collaboration with Spaceport Camden.

The College of Coastal Georgia fully supports the Coastal Regional Commission in this request for Economic Development Administration funding to develop Spaceport Camden improving to the economic resiliency of this region.

Sincerely,



Michelle R. Johnston, Ph.D.
President