

Cartwright Announces \$120,000 Grant to Lafayette College

By Colleen Gerrity

EASTON, PA – U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright announced that Lafayette College received a \$120,000 federal grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This grant provides funding to study the mysterious “dark matter” which makes up the majority of matter in the universe. A significant portion of this award will support undergraduate involvement in this research topic, thereby cultivating interest among the next generation of scientists and honing their computational skills.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) supports research, innovation, and discovery that provides the foundation for economic growth in this country. By advancing the frontiers of science and engineering, our nation can develop the knowledge and cutting edge technologies needed to address the challenges we face today and will face in the future.

“I am a strong advocate for the National Science Foundation,” said Rep. Cartwright, a member of the Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Subcommittee. “Scientific advancement is one of the keys to U.S. competitiveness in a global marketplace; I commend Professor Brooks Thomas and Lafayette College on this award and will continue to support these programs.

“My goal is to provide a bridge between experiment and theory,” says Professor Brooks Thomas, assistant Professor of Physics at Lafayette College. “Over the last thirty years we have learned a great deal about dark matter, but many fundamental questions remain unanswered. Does the dark matter consist of one kind of particle or many? What forces does the dark matter feel? Input from both theory and experiment is needed in order to answer these questions.”

This NSF grant will help to support Thomas and the students in his research group as they explore new ideas for what the dark matter could be and assess how to test those ideas experimentally. “Since the basis of my work is theoretical, many people assume I sit in deep thought all day,” Thomas jokes, “but theoretical physics involves hard work and a lot of late nights. It involves engaging in active discussions with other physicists, testing ideas, writing computer code, performing simulations, and analyzing and interpreting enormous data sets.”

Rep. Matt Cartwright represents Pennsylvania’s 17th Congressional District, which includes Schuylkill County and portions of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, and Northampton Counties. Cartwright serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.



Farmers' Market Around the Area

Blue Valley Farmers Market

Located at Blue Valley Farm Show, 707 American Bangor Rd, Bangor, PA 18013. Sunday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Opening May 7th - Middle of October. EBT accepted by some vendors. FMNP Vouchers accepted by some vendors.

Emmaus Farmers' Market

The Market will be open from 10 am to 2 pm and is sponsored by BB&T and is presented in partnership with the Emmaus Main Street Partners. The Market is held at the BB&T located at 235 Chestnut Street, Emmaus, PA. The Market will be open every Sunday through November. For more information please visit www.emmausmarket.com or call 610.462.3730.

Monroe Farmers' Market

The outdoor season is open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon, starting May 6th through October, in beautiful Courthouse Square in Downtown Stroudsburg. The outdoor market hosts live music by local musicians weekly. Visit www.monroefarmersmarket.com for more information.

Seed Farm Stand

The Seed Farm Stand is located at 5854 Vera Cruz Rd. S., in Emmaus, and is open every Wednesday and Friday from 3-7 p.m. For weekly produce availability lists, stories of new farmers and more, join “The Seed Farm Stand” Facebook group at www.facebook.com/the-seedfarmorg. For additional information about the farm stand, see www.theseedfarm.org/farm-stand.

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August 20

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