



CITY OF
COOKEVILLE
T E N N E S S E E
Office of the Mayor

May 13, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

As Mayor of the City of Cookeville, I am pleased to convey my strong support for the UC Makerspace initiative. This visionary, community-driven project is poised to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and local economic development in our region.

The UC Makerspace aims to establish a shared commercial kitchen and collaborative makerspace that will directly benefit our citizens, small businesses, and aspiring entrepreneurs. By providing access to licensed kitchen facilities and creative workspaces, this initiative addresses some of the most critical barriers facing emerging food-based and artisanal businesses: cost, access, and resources.

The shared commercial kitchen component of this project will serve as a launchpad for food entrepreneurs such as caterers, bakers, and food truck operators. It will help lower the high cost of entry into the food industry while also supporting public health through nutrition-focused programming and partnerships with local farms and food access initiatives. This aligns with our city's values of wellness, sustainability, and economic opportunity.

Equally impactful is the makerspace, which will offer tools, equipment, and workspace for artists, tradespeople, and students. The space will function as a dynamic hub for workforce development, hands-on education, and small-scale manufacturing. It is an investment in our region's future—encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill-building at every level.

The UC Makerspace will bring measurable community and economic benefits, including job creation, business incubation, and expanded access to commercial facilities. More than just a facility, it will be a center for collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving—reinforcing Cookeville's dedication to nurturing small businesses and empowering local talent.

I recognize the profound value of this initiative and the positive ripple effects it will have throughout our community. I offer my wholehearted support and urge other stakeholders to join us in backing this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Lauren Wheaton
Mayor