



# City of Akron, Ohio

DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC, MAYOR

March 3, 2015

To the Community Connectors Steering Committee and Application Review Panel:

As Mayor of the City of Akron, I strongly support our community partners' iCARE mentoring program application.

Key partners for this initiative, including Love Akron and Charisma Community Connection, have done admirable work around fatherhood, coaching Akron's new parents about family roles and responsibilities, and mentoring/support for Akron Public School students for whom English is a second language. The Man-Up Movement has worked to guide young men of high-school age away from negative influences and toward graduation and fulfilling jobs. Summit Education Initiative employs the latest in technology and aggregates meaningful student achievement and non-academic data to provide Summit County educators with eye-opening academic performance statistics at classroom, school and district levels.

Akron Public Schools has provided the city's children with quality K-12 education since 1847. The district has grown stronger in recent years through APS partnerships with non-profit agencies and the City of Akron. As a result of The City of Akron-APS partnership 29 new Community Learners Centers have been built to date, allowing teachers to teach and students to learn in 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environments. APS' National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM middle school was born out of a collaborative including the City of Akron, the National Inventors Hall of Fame® Foundation, The University of Akron, Akron Tomorrow, and the Greater Akron Chamber. These are just a few examples of what APS has been able to accomplish through cooperative efforts with supportive municipal and community leaders.

Yet for all of our efforts, we know that many of Akron's children have unmet social support needs. The City of Akron commends our local faith-based and non-profit organizations for their determination to better the lives of students through a collaborative mentorship program. We believe strongly that iCARE is deserving of support at the state level through Community Connectors and anticipate widespread participation from Akron's business, civic, faith-based and nonprofit sectors to make this a reality for our Akron public school students.

DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC  
Mayor