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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

February 25, 2015

Community Connectors Program
Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to support the efforts of Akron Public Schools, Charisma Community Connections, the Summit Education Initiative, and the growing corps of project partners seeking funding under the Ohio Department of Education's Community Connectors mentoring initiative.

If funded, the iCARE Mentoring program would bring together a school district with a student population in need of nontraditional, innovative supports, a nonprofit technological evaluation organization, and multiple members of Akron's faith-based community.

The iCARE program proposal includes plans to provide more than 300 students with positive reinforcement and advice about their futures at the age when young people need it most. Results would be not just qualitative, but measurable and replicable in other situations. Family support would also play an important role, as the partnership understands the dire need to increase parental engagement.

This program has the potential to ensure that the fifth- and sixth-grade students become responsible, prepared, self-respecting adults.

Please give serious consideration to iCARE's application for Community Connectors grant funding.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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