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To The Community Connectors Review Committee,

As the Director of Rushmore Academy, I would like to take a moment to recognize the mentoring program provided by Mr. Tom Toney and Current Family / Family Life Church. Rushmore Academy is a Dropout Recovery Community School serving at risk students ages 16-22 years old.

The program benefits the students at Rushmore Academy in many ways. Including, but not limited to sharing real life experiences to meet Rushmore students where they are and providing support to help them overcome the individual barriers they face. Some of those barriers include: substance abuse, being homeless, students that do not have a "father figure", and being teen parents.

Over the past few years, the mentorship support has involved numerous school activities such as weekly individual and small group meetings to help the Rushmore students share their stories. I am sincerely appreciative of the services the mentorship program provides to our students and the Marion community.

Additionally, they have been a tremendous partner and collaborator with community employers which has helped to empower our students to have a greater understanding of the positive career potentials in Marion Community.

On behalf of the Rushmore students and staff, we greatly value all of the hard work, dedication and support provided by Mr. Tom Toney and Current Family / Family Life Church.

Sincerely,

Steve Vanderhoff
Director – Rushmore Academy