

FRIENDS OF
BREAKTHROUGH
CITIZENS PREP INTERGENERATIONAL SCHOOLS

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March 6, 2015

Mr. Dick Ross

Superintendent of Public Instruction

25 South Front Street

Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Dear Superintendent Ross,

Friends of Breakthrough (FOB) is an independent 501c3 organization that provides fundraising, advocacy, and awareness services for Breakthrough Schools and all schools within the Breakthrough network. FOB has a Memo of Understanding with Breakthrough Schools from July 1, 2011 within which both entities agree that they will work collaboratively to advance their respective charitable and educational missions, and that FOB will conduct fundraising activities exclusively for itself, Breakthrough Schools and the Breakthrough network of member schools. This structure was established because Breakthrough, due to inequitable public funding, requires between \$4-6 million annually in private funds to meet its baseline operating and facility needs. FOB also raises funds periodically for special projects and programmatic needs.

The FOB Board of Directors fully supports FOB and Breakthrough's pursuit of the Community Connectors grant to support the Breakthrough Mentoring Program. Upon award notification, FOB will immediately begin to reach out to private funders with information and initial requests for the matching amount of \$15,000 in years 2 and 3 of the grant.

Furthermore, should additional in-kind contributions be, for some reason, difficult to attain in the coming years, **FOB asserts that the organization and its Board of Directors will make the necessary funds available in each year of the grant for this special purpose from general annual fund contributions.** To that end, we have already notified our accounting manager of this pending commitment and will obtain approval in the form of an official resolution from our Board of Directors at the next quarterly meeting on March 19, 2015.

We urge you to give this commitment and Breakthrough's application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Merriman
Board Chair