



UNIVERSITY
AREA
ENRICHMENT
ASSOCIATION

Dear Community Connectors Grant Review Committee,

As the Executive Director of the University Area Enrichment Association (UAEA), I would like to express my strong support for Graham Expeditionary Middle School and the proposed GEMS/GPS center.

The UAEA works to improve the quality of life for people who live, work, learn and worship in the neighborhoods surrounding The Ohio State University. Founded in 2005, UAEA is housed at Summit on 16th UMC, the faith-based partner for the GEMS/GPS Center. The UAEA is pleased to work in concert with organizations with similar aims. We have maintained an active partnership with GEMS/GPS since 2011, when the two organizations became neighbors. GEMS/GPS supports our Children's Defense Fund® Freedom School Program, offering us space and resources for the summer, knowing that the students at GEMS/GPS are well served by this full-day, 8-week literacy enhancement program. In turn, those of us at Summit on 16th UMC know that our Freedom School scholars will be similarly well served by the GEMS/GPS Center. Tutoring and quality mentorship programming has long been identified as a need by the parents of GEMS/GPS students. These students and the other children of the community will benefit from the investment in who they are today, and who they will become tomorrow.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that the State of Ohio provides with this grant, and I strongly recommend awarding this grant to Graham Expeditionary Middle School to fund the vital work of the GEMS/GPS Center. Any programming that fosters quality relationships with adults as our children plan for a brighter future is a win for our students, families, and the community at large. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Paige Chapman-Layland
Executive Director
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