

Kenton Community Connector Grant Leadership Team Bio Worksheet

Leadership team should be no less than one member of each partnering organization.

Organization Name: Hardin County Chamber Business Alliance

Leadership Team Member Name: Jon Cross

Leadership Team Member Title: President & CEO | Business Development

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 5 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Develop the Jr. Ambassadors Program within the Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance, to allow students to be mentored by existing Ambassadors, who are community leaders, as well as participate in community events to expose more civic and community relation's experience.
- Connect our local business leaders, small business owners and advance manufacturing companies to participate with our action plan with internships, job shadow program and school visits.
- Serve as a mentor and provide leadership opportunities to students and teachers, as it relates to practical educational experiences.
- Help 11 & 12 grade students secure internships with participating businesses, as well as participating in the job shadow program for 7 & 8 grade students.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

Jon Cross was appointed in 2014 by the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance Board of Directors to serve as its new President & Chief Executive Officer. Jon recently returned to his hometown community, from California, to lead one of the largest member-driven and business focused organizations invested in making Hardin County a great place to live, work and prosper. Jon oversees a dedicated team and four divisions (Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Downtown Development and Tourism) that make up the Alliance organization. As President & CEO, Jon sits on the Alliance Board of Directors to help develop and execute both the short-term and long-term strategic goals of the organization. Jon's primary focus of business development includes generating new growth, jobs and investment opportunities to advance Hardin County's economy, as well as expanding the county's market awareness on a regional, national and global scale. With nearly two decades of political, government and business experience, Jon's diverse background in both the public and private sector has provided him the opportunity to consult with and work for some of the top business and political leaders throughout the country. Some include San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Business Entrepreneur Jenny Craig, Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney, former U.S. Senate candidate and CEO of Hewlett-Packard Carly Fiorina, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, Ohio Auditor and Attorney General Jim Petro and real estate developer Richard Allen of The Allen Group.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Hardin County Chamber Business Alliance

Leadership Team Member Name: Jacqueline Fitzgerald

Leadership Team Member Title: Community Development

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 35 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Coordinate meetings
 - Provide insight as to how to better prepare students for jobs in our local community.
 - To develop the Jr. Ambassadors leadership program, to create better leaders for the future of Hardin County
 - To develop future employees and business leaders that are well rounded, knowledgeable and employable.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

I have been employed with the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance for the last 2 years as Director and Community Development. I am very passionate about our youth and making sure that all youth succeed no matter what socioeconomics they come from. In 2013 myself and another lady, headed up a major park project in our local community to raise over 60,000 in three months to put in all new playground equipment and a splash pad. My vision and hope was that all kids would have a chance to get out and learn how to play again and stimulate their minds and build lasting friendships and memories. The generous donations for the park project, has done just that. The park is filled every day with kids and families spending time playing and working together. I believe in all of our children, they are my passion and the future.... I believe the future is bright.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Hardin Co Ministerial Association

Leadership Team Member Name: Scott Johnson

Leadership Team Member Title: Association Member

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project) 5%

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- To coordinate meetings with churches involved in the Ministerial Association and communicate responsibilities to achieve our stated goals.
- Communicate with other faith-based organizations to gain their support and help for after-school programs.
- To work with Association members to garnish help in serving as mentors and provide opportunities to both students and teachers for leadership and character development.
- To work in conjunction with the faith-based community and with the school system to create after-school learning opportunities and mentoring programs for leadership and character development.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

I have spent over 30 years in ordained ministry, and have spent most of that time in the Kenton Community. I have been a past president of the Hardin County Ministerial Association, have been very involved in both the ecumenical community and the secular community to help make Hardin County a better place to live, work, and prosper. I have had extensive experience in working with various groups, mentoring youth, and establishing programs that have been both church-related and school-related. Through our youth groups at the church, I have had significant interactions with youth and am passionate about building their character and helping them to find "their place in this world," so to speak.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Kenton City Schools

Leadership Team Member Name: Jennifer Penczarski

Leadership Team Member Title: Superintendent

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 10 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Serve as the district representative and liaison between all partners to ensure Kenton City Schools makes the required changes instructionally and financially to transform educational opportunities for our students.
- Connect the students and staff of the Kenton City Schools to the business and faith based community of Kenton City through mentoring programs, internships, capstones and other leadership opportunities.
- Educate parents and students about the project goals, the need for the change, and the difference these educational opportunities and partnerships will make for the future of our community.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

(Brief description of your passion for the program and interest in working with young people. Bios should also include overview of your personal qualifications and prior relevant experience.)

I have served 5 years as a Superintendent and facilitator of the Ohio Improvement Process, 5 years experience as a Building Principal and School Improvement Coach for Economically Disadvantaged Students and Students with Disabilities and District Technology Integration Leader. I led the Kenton City School district in a successful bond issue to build 21st century facility for all PK-6 students; reassessed district policies, practices and funding streams to more effectively share services reducing long term operational costs; led the district-wide 1:1 blended learning technology initiative in 2 districts; brought the Asia Society ISSN model to Kenton City Schools through the Race to the Top Innovative grant; work closely with the Hardin County and the City of Kenton Economic Development committees to ensure a quality education and talent in workforce through development of critical thinking and professional skills upon graduation from KCS.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Kenton City Schools

Leadership Team Member Name: Chad Thrush

Leadership Team Member Title: High School Representative (Principal)

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 5 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Help to plan/coordinate the internship and capstone projects at the high school level
- Provide leadership to staff for professional development as well designing and implementing program goals related tMS students.
- Serve as a school representative in communication with the Hardin County Ministerial Association, Quest Federal Credit Union, and Hardin County Chamber Business Alliance

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

In my first 11 years of teaching experience, I was fortunate to be involved in several service learning projects within two different communities. The largest involved planning and coordinating the placement of all high school seniors at Marion Harding High School throughout the city on one "Youth in Government" day. Every senior was able to shadow a city employee for the day and participate in a mock-city council meeting to conclude the day's events. I've also been able to help plan and coordinate the offering of new courses and programs in my 6 years of high school administration here at Kenton High School. Facilitating the induction of new initiatives is a strength as I served as our district's Race to the Top Coordinator for four years which was responsible for leading many transitions in our district including the new teacher and principal evaluation system. I've also formed strong relationships with leaders of our ministerial association which has already allowed for clear and transparent communication strengthening that partnership.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Kenton City Schools

Leadership Team Member Name: Robin Bame

Leadership Team Member Title: Principal

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 3 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Serve as a school district representative to give input on student needs, goals and aspirations.
- Assist in designing and implementing program goals that benefit the non-traditional learner.
- Provide leadership to staff for professional development as well designing and implementing program goals related KES students.
- Advocate for student needs/desires in regards to increasing employability skills and varied employment experiences.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

My experience working with alternative education and students who benefit from a non-traditional school environment has helped me gain insight into the needs of students who may not choose a four year university experience. I have worked with students in grades 6-12 in an online and/or alternative setting for the past 13 years and have become increasingly aware of our community's need for more exposure to employment opportunities that motivate and entice students to become active participants in their learning experiences. I have also had the opportunity to work with students with special needs who are unlikely to fully participate in all academic areas due to barriers. I feel a more varied school experience will lead to greater student engagement and self-worth which has the potential to increase academic performance. I have also had the opportunity to work as the coordinator of online enrichment and gifted services. It is my experience that highly motivated and gifted students are not always academically motivated and are often receptive to varied learning options as well.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Kenton City Schools

Leadership Team Member Name: Kirk Cameron

Leadership Team Member Title: Middle School Principal

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 5 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Serve as a school district representative to give input on student needs, goals and aspirations.
- Provide leadership to staff for professional development as well designing and implementing program goals related MS students.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

During my 16 years in education, my career path has included a number of unique and relevant experiences. I served as a 7-12 math teacher in a small local school district. During this time I complete my graduate work, served as the teacher association VP, and also taught GED classes at a local prison for over a year. I started my administrative career as a literacy coach for the Ohio Department of Youth Services for a year. I then served for five years at the district office level and oversaw the district's \$14 million Striving Readers grant from the Federal Department of Education. I also coordinated the district's educational policies and Title I program for a portion of this time. In 2012, I was excited to return to public education and start my career at Kenton Middle School. The school had recently received an Innovate grant from ODE and was following the Asia Society ISSN Model. For the past 3 years, Kenton Middle School has followed an international school model and provided our students with experiences that broadened their perspective beyond the City of Kenton.

In order to complement the student's global education, the goal is to now provide exploratory courses for careers.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Ohio Hi Point Career Center

Leadership Team Member Name: Debra Wortman

Leadership Team Member Title: Satellite Director

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 50 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Coordinate planning and implementation of career tech programs.
- Collaborate with partners and business/industry to provide internship opportunities for students.
- Collaborate with colleges to determine potential college credits for high school students taking career tech courses.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as a career tech educator (16 years) and administrator (11 years) for a total of 27 years. Nothing is more rewarding than making a positive impact on a young person's life and the community within which I work. I was hired to establish and build the satellite program at Ohio Hi-Point. Providing opportunities for students is my daily focus. Starting with zero students/programs in 2004, we now have 27 programs in 13 locations throughout 5 counties with student enrollment of over 2000. I have represented OHP on Century 21st and Straight A grants and participated in High Schools That Work initiatives designed to increase student opportunities as well as curriculum relevance and rigor.

Kenton Community Connector Grant Leadership Team Bio Worksheet

Organization Name: Ensign Associates

Leadership Team Member Name: Jane Ensign

Leadership Team Member Title: Internship/Capstone Consultant

Time Commitment (% of contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 40% - 50 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Support team in grant writing, program development and communication efforts
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Provide high school internship and capstone program training for the grant partners who will be supporting the programs and recruiting mentors; for educators who will be recruiting students to participate in the programs and will be responsible for instructing the internship and capstone courses that correlate with the authentic experiences students will be getting in their internships/capstones with mentors; for the mentors who will be working directly with the students at the mentors' work sites
- Develop internship and capstone program evaluations with the grant partners
- Create the curriculum for the high school internship and capstone courses and train and support the teachers in the implementation of the curriculum
- Providing support for sustainability of the programs by seeking funding and/or resources, e.g. AmeriCorps/VISTA programs.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

My passion for working with youth was passed to me from my mother, a passionate, highly-successful sixth-grade teacher. Observing her teaching and share her passion for teaching with me, led to my desire to be teacher. In 1993, as a high school teacher in Dublin, Ohio, I was asked by the superintendent to create a professional internship program that would link high school learning experiences to college and career readiness. What I observed from the Dublin Pre-Professional Business & Professional Program was astounding. Junior and senior students entered the program with little understanding about careers and workplace expectations and finished with career focus, professionalism, self-confidence and a strong relationship with a caring mentor they knew would support them in their future. For many students, this experience provided them with confidence in the selection of a college major. The ability to create and manage this impactful program launched my desire to advance into school administration. I served as high school assistant principal, a high school principal and later as director of curriculum of instruction at the Ohio Department of Education. Through Ensign Associates, I combined my teaching, administrative and curriculum background and developed and implemented internship programs for Metro Early College High School (Ohio's first STEM school) and Reynoldsburg High School. I also developed and implemented a capstone program at Reynoldsburg High School in 2013. There is joy in assisting high school students find their passion, create an individualized pathway to their own future and their way to make a difference in the world. It is an honor to be selected to work with and support the Kenton partners by planning and implementing this Community Connectors grant with, and on behalf of, the Kenton City School District staff, administration, and, of course, Kenton students.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Hardin Co Ministerial Association

Leadership Team Member Name: Dave Dooley

Leadership Team Member Title:

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 5 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- To coordinate meetings with churches involved in the Ministerial Association and communicate responsibilities to achieve our stated goals.
- Communicate with other faith-based organizations to gain their support and help for after-school programs.
- To work with Association members to garnish help in serving as mentors and provide opportunities to both students and teachers for leadership and character development.
- To work in conjunction with the faith-based community and with the school system to create after-school learning opportunities and mentoring programs for leadership and character development.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

My passion for students began as a result of others passion for me as a student. I'm forever grateful to many who took the time to invest in my life as role models, mentors, and tutors throughout my academic life. Faith in God and the support of others allowed me to use this passion in the field of Youth Ministry for eight years and in Pastoral Ministry for the past seven years. I believe all students deserve the opportunity to be inspired by mentors in our community to help develop wisdom, character and leadership.

**Kenton Community Connector Grant
Leadership Team Bio Worksheet**

Organization Name: Hardin Co Ministerial Association

Leadership Team Member Name: Jason Manns

Leadership Team Member Title:

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 5 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- To coordinate meetings with churches involved in the Ministerial Association and communicate responsibilities to achieve our stated goals.
- Communicate with other faith-based organizations to gain their support and help for after-school programs.
- To work with Association members to garnish help in serving as mentors and provide opportunities to both students and teachers for leadership and character development.
- To work in conjunction with the faith-based community and with the school system to create after-school learning opportunities and mentoring programs for leadership and character development.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

As a Pastor I am extremely passionate about telling people about Christ. I have served in youth ministry for many years and have been a coach of multiple sports like wrestling, baseball, soccer and basketball. I have been a mentor at our local alternative school.

Kenton Community Connector Grant Leadership Team Bio Worksheet

Organization Name: Quest Federal Credit Union

Leadership Team Member Name: Matthew Jennings

Leadership Team Member Title:

Time Commitment (% of your contracted time likely to be allocated to project): 5 %

Responsibilities for this grant project:

- Coordinate grant writing, program development and communication efforts on behalf of my organization.
- Provide insight/advice to leadership team regarding my organization's needs, as well as how best to work with my organization to achieve project goals on time/within budget.
- Attend Leadership Team meetings and complete my responsibilities listed below to the best of my abilities.
- Serve as the fiscal agent for the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance and serve as the coordinator of receivables and payables.
- Provide insight as to how to better prepare students for jobs in banking and related finance and economic fields.
- Develop a Jr. Board of Quest Federal Credit Union staffed with area students and educate them on how to form, develop, implement and function as a Board of Directors with all qualifying documentation, i.e. By-Laws.
- To develop the Jr. Board to the extent that they are grounded in practical knowledge and can potentially found a Student Led and Operated Credit Union. This is common practice on college and high school campuses but would be "1st to market" in our geographic area.
- To develop future employees and business leaders that are intelligent and employable.

Passion/Qualifications and Relevant Experience:

I have been employed as the CEO of Quest Federal Credit Union since 2007. During which time I have served as a Board Member of multiple area organizations including Hardin Memorial Hospital, the Hardin County Chamber and Business Alliance, Rhodes State College Foundation, the Hardin County Community Foundation, Kenton Little League and Midget Football programs, Cub Scout Pack #121, among others. As you can see, my experience is broad and varied with a solid dose of youth programs. I believe that our community is seeing a fundamental shift from a blue collar, downtrodden community to a very vibrant, progressive community that is beginning to grow and advance. This is paramount to the success of not just the community but to the success of our area students. My passion and dream is that all students have a choice to enter the workforce or continue their education and when they do ultimately enter the workforce, that there is opportunity here at home. I want to see our best and brightest stay or return and to have the chance to raise a family here and to help our community grow and excel. I have been employed as the CEO of Quest Federal Credit Union since 2007. I believe this grant will be a model for how business, enterprise, non-profit and faith based organizations can come together for a common cause and make a tremendous impact on our future and more importantly, the future of our children.