

March 3, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Review Panel:

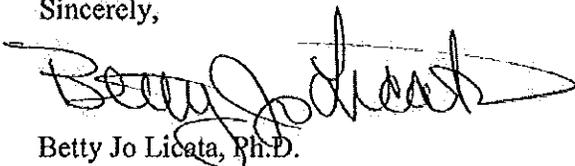
I am pleased to provide a letter of support for Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's Community Connectors proposal. Junior Achievement is a critical program in the Mahoning Valley that offers real opportunities for businesses to teach work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship to students in grades K-12. As you know, achievement in life takes tools that may not be found in the classroom. JA gives young people those tools through a unique interactive curriculum, brought to life by the "real world" experience of our volunteer mentors. The result is vital, productive, and engaged children.

I am proud to say that our students and faculty in the Youngstown State University Williamson College of Business Administration are ongoing partners with Junior Achievement. Our students are involved in delivering Junior Achievement programs and "JA in a Day" has become an annual event for several of our professional student organizations. We look forward to expanding our partnership with JAMV and increasing the number of students with whom we interact.

I have been a Junior Achievement volunteer for many years and am gratified that some of my former JA students are now business majors at a variety of universities. Being in the K-12 classroom provides a valuable opportunity to serve our community and for our college students to serve as role models to the younger students.

Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley is positioned to expand its impact on the young people of our area, and board members, business leaders, and our university community stand ready to contribute to the preparation of children in grades K-12.

Sincerely,



Betty Jo Licata, Ph.D.  
Dean



**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**TRUMBULL CAMPUS**  
4314 Mahoning Ave., N.W.  
Warren, Ohio 44483

March 5, 2015

RE: Statement of Support

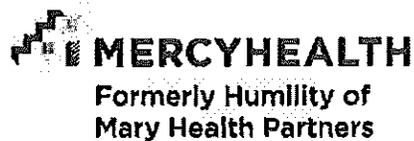
As coordinator of business programs at Kent State University at Trumbull we support Junior Achievement of the Mahoning Valley (JAMV) as JAMV applies for the Community Connections Grant.

The business program at Kent State University at Trumbull has continuously worked closely with JAMV as they fulfill their mission of K-12 business education. As coordinator I encourage our business instructor to also support JAMV. We encourage our students to be classroom volunteers who present Junior Achievement lessons.

I also serve as a member of JAMV's Board of Directors. The business program at Kent State University at Trumbull shares the same educational vision as JAMV, is a participant in goal setting, identifies area for improvement and operates in accordance with all state and federal laws.

If further amplification on any of the above items is required please feel free to contact me.

John A. Marino  
Associate Professor  
Business Program Coordinator  
Kent State University at Trumbull  
[JMarino@kent.edu](mailto:JMarino@kent.edu)  
330-675-8988



March 3, 2015

Michele Merkel  
President

**Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley**

1601 Motor Inn Drive, #305  
Girard, OH 44420

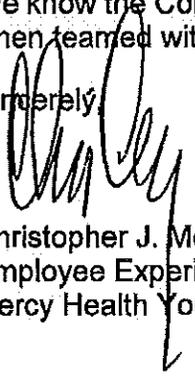
Dear Michele:

On behalf of Mercy Health, it is my pleasure to submit this letter of support Junior Achievement of the Mahoning Valley's "Community Connectors" proposal.

Junior Achievement has offered real opportunities for businesses to teach work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship education to students in grades K-12 for many years. As we all know, achievement in life takes tools that may not be found in the regular classroom. JA gives young people those tools through unique interactive curriculum, brought to life by the real world experience of volunteer mentors. The results are impressive and the JA experience is so valuable for every student.

We know the Community Connectors program will be a guaranteed success when teamed with JA.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. McCarty  
Employee Experience and Government Liaison  
Mercy Health Youngstown



March 4, 2015

Ohio Department of Education  
Attn: Richard Ross, Superintendent  
Community Connectors Grant Application  
25 S. Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Letter of Support – Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley

**VEC Companies**

*Valley Electrical  
Consolidated Inc.*  
Industrial  
Commercial  
Service

*Evets Oil & Gas  
Construction  
Services*  
Civil  
Mechanical  
Electrical  
Fabrication

*VEC SI Low  
Voltage Solutions*  
Video Systems  
Security & CCTV  
Sound Systems  
Computer Networks

Dear Superintendent Ross:

I am writing to you in support of Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's Community Connector's proposal. As a volunteer for this organization, I have seen firsthand the unparalleled learning experience these programs offer to students in grades K-12.

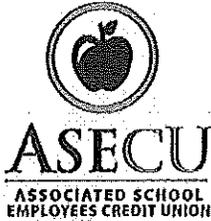
First, the interactive qualities of the curriculum engage every participant while teaching them the entrepreneurial and financial literacy skills needed for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> –century marketplace. JA offers a variety of true-to-life programs to teach students about budgeting, choosing a career, running a business, etc. These are lessons that are not typically covered in-depth in the classroom.

Further, JA volunteers are successful local leaders and entrepreneurs who bring their valuable knowledge and experience to the classroom for the benefit of our future workforce. During the 2013-2014 school year, more than 450 volunteers shared their expertise with 10,486 students in 466 classrooms in the Mahoning Valley. This widespread program has connected students with local leaders, thereby inspiring our youth to visualize and pursue a rewarding future.

For these reasons, I am confident in the effectiveness of these programs and ask that you consider this proposal.

Thank you,

Chris Jaskiewicz  
President/COO  
VEC, Inc.  
330-539-4044 X 1128  
ChrisJ@vecohio.com



March 5,, 2015

Ohio Department of Education  
Attn: Richard Ross, Superintendent  
Community Connectors Grant Application  
25 S. Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Letter of Support – Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley

Dear Superintendent Ross:

I am writing in support of Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's  
Community Connector Grant Application.

Over the last several years I have served as a volunteer to this organization.  
During this time I have both observed and participated in their classroom  
programs. These programs have covered valuable topics for students at all  
grade levels and covered topics such as financial literacy, entrepreneurship and  
work readiness. Students are able to gain a better understanding of these topics  
by hearing from successful leaders who bring firsthand knowledge into the  
classroom.

For the last seven years Associated School Employees Credit Union has  
partnered with Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley with an initiative called  
Financial Starting Points. Each year this program, with the help of JA, teaches  
over 400 high school students from over 15 different school districts financial  
life skills to deal with real world scenarios. The life skills taught include  
Budgeting, Investments, Credit and decision making.

Policy makers in Ohio understand the value that students educated in these areas  
bring to themselves and our communities. Junior Achievement of Mahoning  
Valley has the experience and history to perform the tasks of the Community  
Connector Grant.

Please join me in supporting their request.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Kurish, CEO/President  
Associated School Employees Credit Union

Austintown  
1690 S. Canfield-Niles Rd.  
Austintown, Oh 44515  
330-792-4000  
330-792-4909 fax

Boardman  
85 Marwood Circle  
Boardman, Oh 44512  
330-792-4000  
330-758-8991 fax

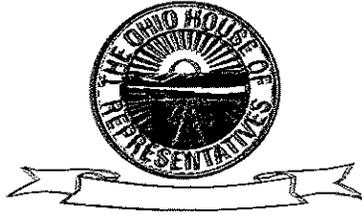
Lordstown  
2255 Salt Springs Road  
Warren, Oh 44481  
330-824-2542  
330-824-2544 fax

Newton Falls  
25 South Canal Street  
Newton Falls, Oh 44444  
330-872-5801  
330-872-5340 fax

Youngstown State  
University  
One University Plaza  
Youngstown, Oh 44555  
330-941-3204  
330-941-1498 fax

[www.asecu.com](http://www.asecu.com)

"The Best Place to Save,  
Only Place to Borrow!"



**Representative Sean J. O'Brien**  
**63<sup>rd</sup> House District—Southeastern Trumbull County**

**February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Dear Superintendent Ross and Community Connectors Review Panel Members,

I am writing you today to offer my unconditional support for the school districts of Trumbull County in their efforts to be selected as one of this year's Community Connector Grant recipients.

As you may know, ensuring that the students of my district (the 63<sup>rd</sup> House District) continue to have access to the best possible educational and developmental opportunities has long been a top priority of mine. Their selection as the recipients of a Community Connector Grant would go a long way toward ensuring a high level of quality far into the future, as the money would be used for the creation and maintenance of student-nurturing Junior Achievement programs for students in grades 5-9.

Over the past few years, I have worked closely with Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley, the lead applicant on Trumbull County's proposal, on a number of education-related initiatives, and can certainly attest to the excellence of the work they do. Not only does the work they currently perform merit recognition, however, but their goals for the future of Trumbull County's students are of equal distinction. Theirs is a group truly focused on doing what is best for the young minds of my district.

Furthermore, the grant facilitator for Trumbull County's proposal, Trumbull County Educational Service Center (TCESC), has long proven itself as a capable and conscientious entity, effortlessly fostering collaborative ventures amongst Trumbull County's diverse school districts. To be sure, there is no better group to serve in capacity of grant facilitator than TCESC.

Indeed, the schools of my district are more than deserving of the coveted Community Connector Grant, and you can be sure the funds would continue to be put to good use in the years to come. While they have already displayed steady improvement over the past few years, this Grant could be just the stepping stone Trumbull County's schools need to ensure they continue to serve their students at the highest possible level.

Should you have any questions or comments at all regarding my support for the Trumbull County's Community Connectors Grant proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614)466-3488, or by email at [Rep63@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep63@ohiohouse.gov). Thank you, in advance, for any consideration given to their application, and I look forward to a favorable outcome for the people of my district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean J. O'Brien".

**Sean J. O'Brien**  
State Representative  
63<sup>rd</sup> House District

**Committees:**

Energy & Nat. Resources, *Ranking Member*  
Agriculture & Rural Development  
Public Utilities

[www.house.state.oh.us](http://www.house.state.oh.us)

77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

**Contact Information:**

Office: 614-466-3488  
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253  
FAX: 614-719-3965  
Email: [rep63@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep63@ohiohouse.gov)



March 3, 2015

Ohio Department of Education  
**Attn: Richard Ross, Superintendent**  
Community Connectors Grant Application  
25 S. Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 433215

Re: Letter of Support – Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley

Dear Superintendent Ross:

As a member of the business community, I am writing to express support for Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's Community Connector's proposal. I personally mentor young people in our community through the Junior Achievement program in the past and have also encouraged employees in my office to volunteer in the classroom through the variety of programs offered by Junior Achievement Mahoning Valley.

Junior Achievement offers real opportunities for businesses to teach work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship education to students in grades K-12. As you know, achievement in life takes tools that may not be found in the classroom. Junior Achievement gives young people those tools through unique interactive curriculum, brought to life by the real world experience of our volunteer mentors. The result is vital, productive, and engaged kids. These programs provide invaluable experience to students in providing them with real world simulations that employers are looking for in the work force.

Junior Achievement provides an exciting opportunity for our young people. I am asking for your consideration of this project and am confident in its success.

Sincerely,

Margaret S. Adams, Esq.  
Vice President & Trust Officer



March 3, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the business community, I am writing to express support for Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's Community Connector's proposal.

Personally, I mentor young people in our community through the Junior Achievement program and encourage volunteer opportunities to my fellow employees. PNC has a long standing relationship with Junior Achievement in the Mahoning Valley with our employees teaching over 70 individual programs during the past four years.

Junior Achievement offers real opportunities for businesses to teach work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship education to students in grades K-12. As you know, achievement in life takes tools that may not be found in the classroom. JA gives young people those tools through unique interactive curriculum, brought to life by the real world experience of our volunteer mentors. The result is vital, productive, and engaged kids.

Junior Achievement provides an exciting opportunity for our young people. I am asking for your consideration of this project and am confident in its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Pastore", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ryan Pastore  
Vice President, Client and Community Relations  
PNC Bank

The PNC Financial Services Group

City Centre One 100 East Federal Street P4-P401-07-1 Youngstown Ohio 44503

[www.pnc.com](http://www.pnc.com)

**SEVEN SEVENTEEN**  
credit union

March 3, 2015

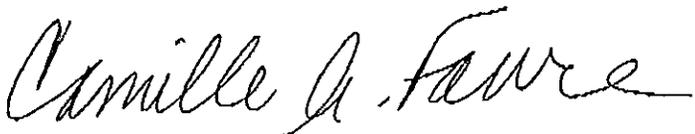
As a member of the business community, I am writing to express support for Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's Community Connector's proposal.

Over the past six years, I personally have taught numerous financial literacy classes in area high schools, and mentored young people in our community through the Junior Achievement program Be Entrepreneurial.

Junior Achievement offers real opportunities for businesses to teach work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship education to students in grades K-12. As you know, achievement in life takes tools that may not be found in the classroom. JA gives young people those tools through unique interactive curriculum, brought to life by the real world experience of our volunteer mentors. The result is vital, productive, and engaged kids.

Junior Achievement provides an exciting opportunity for our young people. I am asking for your consideration of this project and am confident in its success.

Sincerely,



Camille A. Favre  
Senior Vice President  
Human Resources

1975 Celestial Drive NE  
Warren, OH 44484  
March 4, 2015

Mr. Richard Ross  
Superintendent  
Ohio Department of Education  
25 S. Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Community Connectors Grant Applications – Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley

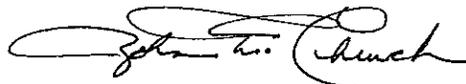
Dear Mr. Ross:

I am writing to express my support for the subject grant proposals being submitted by Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley. As a 25+ year professional in financial services and small business consulting, I have seen first-hand the consequences of not preparing our youth for work readiness or teaching financial literacy.

Through its unique interactive curriculum, delivered by business and community volunteers, Junior Achievement has provided the educational platform – not found elsewhere – to instill these critical life and business skills. The consistent and measureable results Junior Achievement has produced has made me an advocate, volunteer, and long-time board member.

Success in life takes tools that may not necessarily be found in the classroom alone. Junior Achievement gives young people those tools with the real world experience of our volunteer mentors. Mr. Ross, I sincerely ask for approval of the referenced grant requests, so more young people can benefit from this invaluable experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Church". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

John F. Church

03/05/2015

To whom it may concern.

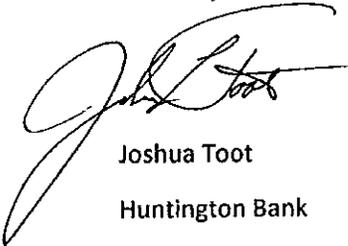
As a member of the Mahoning Valley business community I would like to express my support for Junior Achievement Mahoning Valley's Community Connector's proposal.

I personally enjoy mentoring the young people of our community through the programs that Junior Achievement offers and I encourage my employees to do the same.

Junior Achievement gives me and my organization the opportunity to educate the kids in areas like financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

Through Junior Achievement our young people have the ability to learn about important aspects of business and finance from our local business leaders which teaches the kids work readiness. I am asking for your consideration of this project and I am confident it will be a success.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joshua Toot', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Joshua Toot

Huntington Bank