

February 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As President of the Washington County Family and Children First Council, (FCF), a retired business executive, and a resident of the county; I am vitally concerned about the lack of knowledge by our students, parents and teachers of locally available jobs requiring a college degree or skill trained individuals when they graduate from high school. As in many areas of Ohio, our graduating students believe they must leave the area to find a good job that will support their financial needs, their desire to raise a family and their desire to remaining in the area.

Because of many "boomer" retirements and new jobs coming into the area, The Family & Children First Council recognized this need in 2006. With a group of business leaders, school superintendents and principals, agencies, parents and concerned community leaders, we initiated a grass-roots effort to help solve the lack of knowledge problem. We started a Job Shadowing initiative with our six school districts, our career center and businesses throughout the county. Our goal was to help students, parents and teachers learn more about the good jobs available here at home. It has been a very successful outreach and hopefully has become a model for other counties in Ohio.

With the Building Bridges to Careers (BBC) initiative bringing a broader understanding of the problem, it has been successful through community outreach by providing a diversity of understanding and a commitment to be involved by our major "players". Our FCF Job Shadowing Initiative aligns nicely with the BBC's efforts and fits their Vision and Mission. Thus, we are proud to work together to solve these problems with local support.

The Career Mentoring Program proposed by the BBC grant request is ideal to reach many at-risk students who otherwise may not have an opportunity to fulfill their dreams. I believe the project will assist in achieving our overall goal and will help secure current and future generations.

I, therefore, support this request for approval of the very important Community Connectors Grant to bring so many different disciplines and partners together in a common effort to help both our young people and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Brokaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Allen Brokaw,
200 Timberline Drive Marietta, Ohio 45750 (740) 236-3634