MARIETTA AREA
MACC
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THE RIVERVIEW BUILDING • 100 FRONT STREET, SUITE 200
MARIETTA, OHIO 45750

February 13, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce supports the efforts of the Building Better Careers Initiative for the Washington County community and urges favorable consideration of their application for the Community Connectors Grant. For nearly a decade the Chamber has been actively engaged in fostering an awareness of career opportunities for our area youth. This grant, if awarded, would provide for implementation of a Career Mentoring Program.

The Career Mentors Comprehensive Program will encourage mentoring opportunities that can result in higher education achievement by keeping our students focused and thus enable our students to be capable and ready to enter the workforce upon graduation. Efforts have been on-going to increase workforce readiness, but much more is needed to truly prepare the youth of Washington County. We need our students eager to learn, eager to work, and prepared to work, to enable our businesses to compete on a global basis. The lack of a skilled and viable workforce threatens the livelihood of our communities and impacts local expansion and relocation of companies in Washington County. Therefore, the need for a Career Mentors Program is vital to the success of our current and future generations.

We are united in helping our youth, but lack adequate guidance and resources for parents, students, schools, communities, faith-based groups, and businesses to work together to ensure toward the success of our local students in the classroom and later on the job.

On behalf of the Building Bridges to Careers initiative, the Marietta Area Chamber of Commerce, a business association of nearly 600 area companies, lends our support to their request for approval of this very important Community Connectors Grant.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Keim

Charlotte Keim, CCEO-AP
President/CEO

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Affiliates: Ambassadors Club • Marietta Area Merchant Association • Mid-Ohio Valley Safety Council • TELESIS • Young Emerging Leaders of the Mid-Ohio Valley