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February 11, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the efforts of the Building Bridges to Careers Initiative for the Washington County community, students and families, the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority supports the implementation of a Career Mentoring Program that will provide much needed, readily available, career awareness resources to our area students.

By bringing together parents, schools, communities, faith-based groups, businesses and students, this program will provide guidance and resources for our local students to achieve their full potential by encouraging them to succeed in the classroom and to pursue their dreams.

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. Unfortunately, Washington County has had a decrease in workforce readiness applicants. 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.

On behalf of the Building Bridges to Careers initiative, the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority hereby lends our support to their request for approval of this very important Community Connectors Grant.

Sincerely,



Michele Tipton
Outreach Coordinator