



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING

College of Nursing
Office of the Dean

Newton Hall
1585 Neil Ave
Columbus, OH 43215

Phone (614) 292-8900
Fax (614) 292-4535
E-mail nursing@osu.edu
Web nursing.osu.edu

March 3, 2015

Ohio Department of Education
Community Connectors Mentoring Program
Grant Review Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for the Community Connectors grant entitled 'Medical Mentoring Matters, M3', submitted in partnership by The Ohio State University College of Medicine, the OSU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the OSU College of Nursing (CON), PACT (Partners Achieving Community Transformation), City Year Columbus, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Columbus City Schools.

Community Connectors is an innovative initiative created for grades 5-12 to help provide low-income students, or students in underperforming school districts, with mentors to explore different educational career choices/availabilities. Our unique, transdisciplinary program will provide this vulnerable population with mentors to allow them to explore the allied health fields, presenting them with information on the various career choices available. Our approach will also allow undergraduates, graduates, and faculty from our seven health sciences colleges the ability to connect with this population and help make a difference in their lives through the dissemination of their broad knowledge of the healthcare professions and sharing their personal experiences and training.

One of the goals of the College of Nursing is to increase diversity in our faculty, staff, and students. This grant will allow us to build on current programs here at the CON to provide yet more underserved students with access to the healthcare profession.

I fully support this grant and will provide the team with support to ensure a successful outcome for both the team and the students.

Warm regards,

Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk., PhD, RN, CPNP/PMHNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN
Associate Vice President for Health Promotion
University Chief Wellness Officer
Dean and Professor, College of Nursing
Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry, College of Medicine