**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

College of Medicine
Office of the Dean

254 Meiling Hall
370 W. 9th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-2600 Phone
614-292-4254 Fax

medicine.osu.edu

February 27, 2015

John R. Kasich, Governor
Office of Faith-Based Initiatives
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich:

As the current Interim Dean of the College of Medicine, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for Partners Achieving Community Transformation's (PACT) submission of the Community Connectors grant to your Office of Faith Based Initiatives.

Under the leadership of the former CEO of the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC), Dr. Steven Gabbe, for the past two years, the Medical Center has been engaged with PACT and Columbus City Schools (CCS) in planning a partnership to create a health sciences pipeline in seven low-performing schools on the Near East Side of Columbus. The seven schools will open in the fall of 2015 as the Health Sciences Academies (HSA).

In addition to the co-curricular support the OSUWMC will provide for the seven schools, this grant will afford us the ability to develop an after school component that will offer faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students at the OSUWMC to make greater impact through mentoring. This grant will afford us the ability to serve young people from 5th – 12th grade in an after school program, our partnership with HSA will allow us to impact the lives of children from as early as Pre-Kindergarten.

We are happy to join PACT, Columbus City Schools, City Year Columbus, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in partnering to provide sound, character-based mentoring opportunities for the children of the Near East Side of Columbus. We believe this partnership for an after school mentoring program is perfectly aligned to the goals and academic outcomes we have for the Health Sciences Academies.

The proposal for the Community Connectors grant will provide an additional conduit thorugh which we will be able to impact the academic and social outcomes for students across this feeder pattern. So, I am pleased to submit this letter of support.

Sincerely,

E. Christopher Ellison, MD, FACS
Interim Dean College of Medicine