



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

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

Dear Governor Kasich:

I am delighted to provide this letter of support for Partners Achieving Community Transformation's (PACT) submission of the Community Connectors grant to your Office of Faith Based Initiatives.

The release of this RFP is timely as The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSUWMC) has been engaged with PACT and Columbus City Schools (CCS) to reimagine seven low-performing schools in a feeder pattern on the Near East Side of Columbus. Using a thematic overlay to the Common Core Standards, we are partnering with Columbus City Schools to launch the seven Health Sciences Academies (HSA) in the fall of 2015. There are five (5) elementary schools, one (1) middle, and one (1) high school that comprise the HSA.

From the inception, of our planning process it has been my belief that we need a concrete way to engage the faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students across the OSUWMC campuses to mentor students in the HSA. The approach that is being proposed is based on a successful model in Atlanta with a partnership between an Atlanta public school and Emory University Medical Center. One of the characteristics that will distinguish our model is that we are proposing to create mentoring clusters in each of the seven schools so that the children have exposure early in the academic process to a broad range of careers in the health professions. This mentoring grant will enable us to serve young people from 5th – 12th grade in an after school program. Our work with the HSA will also include the opportunity to engage children from as early as pre-kindergarten.

We are delighted that the partnership includes City Year Columbus (an Americorps program), because they have a great history of successful outcomes in schools like ours. We are also excited that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is a part of this partnership. The character-based book clubs and mentoring groups they are proposing will ensure that the young people in the HSA will not only become high academic achievers, but will possess the characteristics they will need to become strong citizens.

The PACT proposal for the Community Connectors grant will provide a wonderful compliment to the academic plan for the seven (7) schools that will become the Health Sciences Academies. For this reason, I am pleased to submit this enthusiastic letter of support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven G. Gabbe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "G".

Steven G. Gabbe MD
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CEO, Wexner Medical Center
Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology