

February 19, 2015

Advisory Board
Community Connectors Grant Program
State of Ohio

Dear Advisory Board Members:

Greetings from Toledo Ohio! Partners in Education of Toledo Ohio has submitted a grant application to your Community Connectors grant program. Their proposed program is entitled, **Success Mentors**. I am writing to express my strong support for their grant application.

As President of Toledo's Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and as Pastor of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, I strongly support the **Success Mentors** proposal! I am very enthused about the proposed program's focus on urban youth and racial/ethnic minority youth. My work as the Ombudsman for Toledo Public Schools allows me to have daily contact with students. I can assure you that this program is greatly needed. When students do not succeed in school they often drop out. When students drop out, it has a negative effect on local incomes, tax revenue, the availability of a qualified workforce, crime rates, and healthcare. Furthermore, when youth do not succeed, it increases the general strain on the social service system

Success Mentors will help students succeed. **Success Mentors** will help all of NW Ohio by closing the achievement gap. The number of students not graduating from high schools is disproportionately higher among black and Latino males. We need mentoring programs like **Success Mentors** to prevent drop out among our minority students and to teach them how to envision and achieve a positive future.

Over the years, I have been aware of the good work done by Partners in Education (PIE). This fine organization has been helping Toledo Public School students succeed since 1994. PIE is well respected throughout the NW Ohio community and has strong support from many community partners including Lucas County Commissioner Tina Wozniak, the Rotary Club, the Toledo Chamber of Commerce, the Toledo Community Foundation, the Toledo Federation of Teachers, Lucas County Department of Job and Family Services, and Toledo Public Schools. Furthermore, PIE has strong academic partners including The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University, Mercy College of Northwest Ohio, Herzing University, and Owens Community College.

As part of our partnership with Partners in Education, we have agreed to support **Success Mentors** in the following ways: 1) we will help promote the program to our members, 2) we will help PIE recruit adult mentors for their students and 3) we will help promote the program's major events

I strongly encourage you to fund the **Success Mentors** proposal! The Toledo Public School District needs a well-designed mentoring program like this to help youth succeed in education and in life. With the proper funding from you, I am confident that this program will be successful.

Sincerely,



Rev. Cedric Brock
President
Toledo's Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance