



February 27, 2015

Advisory Board

Community Connectors Grant Program

State of Ohio

Dear Advisory Board Members:

Partners in Education of Toledo Ohio have submitted a grant application to your Community Connectors grant program. As Chapter President of Alpha Xi Lambda, Toledo Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. I wish to express our strong support for the Success Mentors proposal!

I am very enthused about the Success Mentors' focus on urban youth and racial/ethnic minority youth. 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, and the availability of a qualified workforce, crime rates, and healthcare. With this said our local chapter plans to partner and support Success Mentors as the program works in alignment with our fraternity's foundational principles of *Manly Deeds, Scholarship, and Love for All Mankind*. Since our inception on December 4, 1906, on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated has been on the front lines of the civil rights movement, educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by not just African-Americans, but all citizens in need across our great nation. To meet this need, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and our local chapters connect and partner with our community. Success Mentors serves as a powerful example of how our members may connect and partner with local students to serve as their mentors fostering a positive future for all.

Partners in Education (PIE) has been working to promote the success of Toledo Public School students since 1994 when the agency was organized via the leadership of the Rotary Club of Toledo with support from the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce, area banks, and corporations. In 2010-2011, Lucas County Commissioner Tina Wozniak led community efforts to help PIE develop the College Coach Program. The College Coach Program continues today and serves as the foundation for their new program, Success Mentors.



As part of our partnership with Partners in Education, the Northwest Ohio Alpha Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has 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
3. We will help promote the program's major events

I strongly encourage you to fund the proposed Success Mentors program. This program is greatly needed by our students and their families. As you know, the Toledo Public School District is the 4th largest school district in Ohio. Many of our students live in poverty and face tremendous barriers to success in education and in life. For example, 33% of youth under the age of 18 in Lucas County live in poverty compared to 23.9% in Ohio. It is barriers like these that create the significant need for Success Mentors in Toledo/Lucas County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Johnson

Chapter President

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Alpha Xi Lambda, Toledo Alumni Chapter