



Board of County
Commissioners
Tina Skeldon Wozniak
President
Pete Gerken
Carol Contrada

March 5, 2015

Advisory Board
Community Connectors Grant Program
State of Ohio

Dear Members of the Advisory Board/Grants Review Committee:

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, I led a community effort 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**.

The mission of their proposed program, **Success Mentors** is to foster hope for a bright future by equipping and empowering youth to succeed in school and life. This program is greatly needed by our students and their families. As a Lucas County Commissioner, I strongly encourage you to fund the proposed **Success Mentors** program.

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. 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Skeldon Wozniak
President, Board of Lucas County Commissioners
Lucas County, Ohio