



Akron Public Schools™

March 3, 2015

Buchtel Community Learning Center 9-12

RE: Community Connectors
CommunityConnectors.Ohio.gov

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support of **Project GRAD Akron's** grant application submitted for **Community Connectors** through the State of Ohio.

Project GRAD's **GRAD Mentors!** will be an important program for our students at **Buchtel Community Learning Center**. As a member school of New Tech Network, we have made great strides in teaching and learning for our students, preparing them for 21st Century careers with standards based education through project-based learning. Students are gaining academic proficiency and also mastering 21st Century Learning Skills, specifically critical thinking, collaboration, oral and written communication. Our students are taking ownership for their learning and becoming self-directed learners.

The mentoring program proposed by Project GRAD Akron will support and enhance our mission through individualized and team mentoring. This program will provide our students with the opportunity to develop strong relationships with community member mentors who will work to support our goals of college and career readiness by continuing to help establish and hone the students' skills for success. Exposing our students to our greater community and increasing their worldview will serve to augment their foundation. By cultivating relationships with non-parent adults, our students will gain insight to the world around them and become more civic oriented. Additionally, our students will learn the elements of relationship building through trust, mutual respect, and problem solving.

I am confident that Project GRAD Akron will implement this program with strong leadership, attention to details, and passion as they have with their programming for Buchtel Cluster students over the past twelve years. Project GRAD Akron has been value added to our building and our community with their purpose-driven mission to serve students and families with high expectations and dedication to youth.

In conclusion, I fully support the GRAD Mentors! program as they seek funding to implement this project which will support the continued personal growth and competence of our students as we prepare them to graduate from high school prepared for college and career.

Sincerely,

Sonya L. Gordon
Principal

1040 Copley Road Akron, OH 44320 Phone: 330.761.7945 Fax: 330.761.7947