

March 9, 2015

To whom it may concern:

It is a pleasure to provide this letter on behalf of Akron General Health System, supporting the efforts of Project GRAD Akron to secure Community Connectors Grant funding from the State of Ohio.

Akron General is a regular supporter of Project GRAD Akron because of the fine work this agency does to help students in Akron graduate from high school and access college. Thanks to the continuing encouragement from Project GRAD, many students from lower socioeconomic neighborhoods who might not otherwise graduate from high school, let alone go on to college, have been able to do so. Akron General supports the agency by sponsoring its annual fundraiser, *Achieving Dreams Celebration*, as well as serving on the fundraising committee. We also provide scholarship support for deserving students identified by Project GRAD.

The strategy of using mentors as role models for learners is the same strategy the health care industry uses with success. We believe it would be a valuable tool and excellent addition to the other tools Project GRAD employs to assist student along the journey to reaching their full potential. Furthermore, we have the utmost confidence in the leadership capabilities of Executive Director Jackie Silas Butler who will easily increase the number of students who are matched with mentors as a way to demonstrate to students the values and principles of hard work, discipline and personal responsibility.

We hope you will give careful consideration to the Project GRAD Akron application and provide the funds needed to support student success in our community. Afterall, an educated community is a healthier one.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 330-344-7101 or email: sue.hobson@akrongeneral.org

Sincerely,



Suzanne Hobson
Director, Community Health
And Community Relations