



February 25, 2015

State of Ohio Legislature
Community Connectors Program
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Community Connectors Evaluator:

I write today to express my support for the Community Connector Grant Proposal from the team of Regional STEM Collaborative, Omega Baptist Church and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This team aligns closely with my City of Learners initiative and I am pleased to recommend them for consideration. This unique team clearly exemplifies the goals of the Community Connectors Program in their mission. Their focus on building character, helping children set goals to be prepared for 21st century careers, developing pathways to achievement, building resiliency and helping children to believe in a positive future, is essential to the success of our community.

This innovative proposal is a layered approach to surrounding children with the support they need during critical periods in development. The team will blend traditional one on one mentoring with group mentoring, team mentoring, peer mentoring and e-mentoring to deliver a supportive network to children across the region. To be effective in their outreach, these established organizations will focus on two school districts in the region. Both the Dayton Public Schools and Mad River Schools will greatly benefit from the additional support.

As best stated by our Governor, *“The power of mentorship holds great promise to help us better connect our communities with our schools, and lift up our educators and our kids. We can show them why learning matters, we can teach them about workplace culture and professional etiquette. We can help them appreciate how important good character is to success in life as well as values like hard work, discipline and personal responsibility—all of which can help motivate and inspire them to find their purpose and to reach for the stars.”*

The City of Learners program is all about connecting community resources. This team has the right experience to serve the children of the Dayton community. I fully support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nan Whaley
Mayor



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

115 S. Ludlow Street · Dayton OH 45402-1812
Tel. (937) 542-3164 · Fax (937) 542-3188
E-Mail: lward@dps.k12.oh.us

Lori L. Ward
Superintendent

2/24/2015

State of Ohio Legislature
Community Connectors Program
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: *Letter of Support*

Dear Community Connectors Evaluator:

I am writing to express the support of Dayton Public Schools for the Community Connector Grant Proposal for the team of Regional STEM Collaborative, Omega Baptist Church and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This winning team epitomizes the goals of the Community Connectors Program each and every day in their missions. In their proposal, they are focused on building character, helping children set goals to be prepared for 21st century careers, developing pathways to achievement, building resiliency and helping children to believe in a positive future.

The proposal team's very unique and innovative proposal is a layered approach to surrounding children with the support they need at very critical times in their lives. The team will blend traditional one on one mentoring with group mentoring, team mentoring, peer mentoring and e-mentoring to deliver a supportive network to children across the region. These well-known, proven organizations in the Dayton Region will specifically focus on two school districts in the region where the support is most needed, Dayton Public Schools and Mad River Schools.

As best stated by our Governor, "*The power of mentorship holds great promise to help us better connect our communities with our schools, and lift up our educators and our kids. We can show them why learning matters, we can teach them about workplace culture and professional etiquette. We can help them appreciate how important good character is to success in life as well as values like hard work, discipline and personal responsibility—all of which can help motivate and inspire them to find their purpose and to reach for the stars.*"

This proposal is definitely a winner. The right organizations, with the right skills and expertise have come together to serve the children of our community. My organization is in full support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Lori L. Ward
SUPERINTENDENT
DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LLW/csw

Mission Statement

Dayton Public Schools provides a high-quality education in a safe environment that prepares our students for success in school, work and life by providing a highly effective trained staff working each day with community resources.



2/24/2015

State of Ohio Legislature
Community Connectors Program
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Community Connectors Evaluator:

I am writing to express the support of Learn to Earn Dayton for the Community Connector Grant Proposal for the team of Regional STEM Collaborative, Omega Baptist Church and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This alliance of organizations epitomizes the goals of the Community Connectors Program. In their proposal, they are focused on building character, helping children set goals to be prepared for 21st century careers, developing pathways to achievement, building resiliency and helping children to believe in a positive future.

The proposal team's very unique and innovative proposal is a layered approach to surrounding children with the support they need at very critical times in their lives. This wrap-around approach is so essential for the emotional growth and social development of young people. The team will blend traditional one-on-one mentoring with group mentoring, team mentoring, peer mentoring and e-mentoring to deliver a supportive network to children across the region. These well-known and practice proven organizations in the Dayton Region will specifically focus on two school districts in the region where the support is most needed, Dayton Public Schools and Mad River Schools.

As best stated by our Governor, "*The power of mentorship holds great promise to help us better connect our communities with our schools, and lift up our educators and our kids. We can show them why learning matters, we can teach them about workplace culture and professional etiquette. We can help them appreciate how important good character is to success in life as well as values like hard work, discipline and personal responsibility—all of which can help motivate and inspire them to find their purpose and to reach for the stars.*"

This proposal has the potential to impact the lives of a lot of young people in the Dayton region. The right organizations, with the right skills and expertise have come together to serve the children of our community. Learn to Earn Dayton is in full support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Thomas J Lasley, II
Executive Director, Learn to Earn Dayton
The Dayton Foundation
and Professor, School of Education & Health Sciences
University of Dayton

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES
Building Learning Communities Through Critical Reflection

300 College Park
Dayton, Ohio 45469-2969
Telephone (937) 229-3146
Fax (937) 229-3199

February 24, 2015

State of Ohio Legislature
Community Connectors Program
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Letter of Support / Community Connector Grant Proposal

Dear Community Connectors Evaluator:

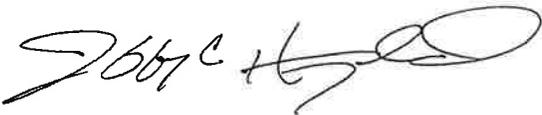
It is my pleasure to offer support for this proposal to the team of Regional STEM Collaborative, Omega Baptist Church and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Just as STEM will ultimately promote jobs and economic development, it is important to focus on these areas together not only because the skills and knowledge in each discipline are essential for student success, but also because these fields are deeply intertwined in the real world and in how students learn most effectively. This winning team epitomizes the goals of the Community Connectors Program each and every day in their missions. In their proposal, they are focused on building character, developing pathways to achievement, building resiliency and helping children to believe in a positive future.

The proposal team's unique and innovative proposal surrounds children with the support they need at very critical times in their lives. The team will blend traditional one on one mentoring with group mentoring, team mentoring, peer mentoring and e-mentoring to deliver a supportive network to children across the region. These well-known, proven organizations in the Dayton Region will specifically focus on two school districts in the region where the support is most needed, Dayton Public Schools and Mad River Schools.

As best stated by our Governor, "*The power of mentorship holds great promise to help us better connect our communities with our schools, and lift up our educators and our kids. We can show them why learning matters, we can teach them about workplace culture and professional etiquette. We can help them appreciate how important good character is to success in life as well as values like hard work, discipline and personal responsibility—all of which can help motivate and inspire them to find their purpose and to reach for the stars.*"

This proposal is definitely a winner. The right organizations, with the right skills and expertise have come together to serve the children of our community. I am in full support of this proposal.

All My Best,



Jeffrey C. Hoagland
President and CEO



AAA WASTEWATER SERVICES, INC.

SEPTIC TANKS • PORTABLE TOILETS • GREASE TRAPS
REPAIRS • LIFT STATIONS • WET/DRY VAC • SEWER/DRAIN

March 1, 2015

To the Community Connectors Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to support The Academy For STEM and Sports (TAFSS) partnership with El Puente, Dayton Public School District, and Camino De Vida in their application for the Community Connectors Grant.

I believe that the program they are executing will have huge positive impact on the youth in the city of Dayton. A high number of the youth living in the city of Dayton are living in high level of poverty, increasing crime rate, have limited role models, and live in single parent home. Many of our youth are ready to give up before realizing their importance. They lack access to resources and, more tragically, the vision of themselves as active participants in of our community.

TAFSS will provide these at-risk youth the much needed mentorship, tutoring, guidance, and encouragement. The program's plan and it's endeavors in providing the youth with rewarding and life changing experiences such as the opportunity to attend an Air Academy, opportunities to tour manufacturing facilities, university visits, receive evidence based mentoring, quality tutoring from industry professionals and college students. Sports participation will provide them with many benefits such as hope for their future, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and decision-making skills just to name a few. The program will also address the desire of many parents who want their children to be healthy, competitive, social, and well-educated members of society.

I am pleased to support the programs effort in providing mentoring and educational services for at-risk communities, specifically the youth. I fully believe that the programs effort will achieve, and possibly exceed the goals set to help our young people avoid delinquency and pursue successful lives.

I hope that you will look favorably on this program's application and look forward in supporting this effort and its future success!

Most Sincerely,

Timothy E. DeHart
President
AAA Wastewater



To the Community Connectors Review Team,

I am writing this letter to support The Academy For STEM and Sports (TAFSS) partnership with El Puente, Dayton Public School District, and Camino De Vida in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. The program they are executing will have huge positive impact on Dayton City youth.

A high number of our Montgomery county area youth, more specifically Dayton City area youth, are living in high level of poverty, dealing with increased crime rate, have limited role models, and live in single parent homes. Many of these youth lack access to resources and, more tragically, the vision of themselves as active participants in of our community.

Many of our youth seem ready to give up before realizing their importance. The TAFSS program will provide these at-risk youth the much needed mentorship, tutoring, guidance, and encouragement needed to succeed at this young age, and propel them into future successes. The program provides the youth with rewarding and life changing experiences such as the opportunity to attend an Air Academy, opportunities to tour manufacturing facilities, university visits, receive evidence based mentoring, quality tutoring from industry professionals and college students, and sports participation. All of these activities will provide them with many benefits such as hope for their future, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and decision-making skills just to name a few. It will also address the desire of many parents who want their children to be healthy, competitive, social, and well-educated members of society.

I am pleased to support the programs effort in providing mentoring and educational services for at-risk communities, specifically the youth. As necessary, my organization has volunteered to conduct classes, hands-on training, or facilitate industry tours. I fully believe that the programs effort will achieve, and possibly exceed the goals set to help our young people avoid delinquency and pursue successful lives.

We hope that you will look favorably on this program's application, as they are providing a significant service to our community. We look forward in supporting this effort and its future success!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Wathen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Wathen
President, Bravo SCM
www.bravoscm.com



September 25, 2014

Mr. Jose Gracia
The Academy for STEM and Sports
P.O. Box 31043
Dayton, OH 45437

Dear Mr. Gracia:

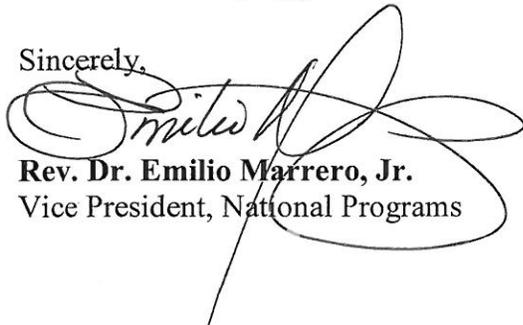
On behalf of Esperanza, Inc. we want to thank you for your on-going partnership with our *Real-Time Mentoring Program*. Our organization is driven by the biblical mandate to serve and advocate for “the least of these”, and through our partnership with organizations like yours, The Academy for STEM and Sports (TAFSS), we are able to serve over 1,800 at risk youth whose lives are impacted in positive ways with over 500 mentors who walk along side them.

I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for TAFSS’ proposal to provide mentoring services for at-risk communities with an emphasis on Latino young people in Dayton, Ohio and the surrounding region. Our previous work with TAFSS indicates that we could fully expect to achieve, and possibly exceed the goals set to help our young people avoid delinquency and pursue successful lives. As one of our sub-grantees, TAFSS has not only been able to engage at-risk Latino youth through positive mentoring relationships, but also build their organizational capacity, through assessments, trainings and technical assistance that work to ensure implementation of research based best practices and the ability to track both qualitative and quantitative information through the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) data software tool.

We commend the work you are doing in helping youth find hope, to become productive members of our community, as well as equipping them to help others along the way. We are confident that this partnership will have a great impact in the Dayton community as you offer youth access to positive adult mentors and to STEM & Sports educational materials.

Your work is a shining example of the good that is happening in Dayton and Esperanza is committed to helping you achieve continued success.

Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Emilio Marrero, Jr.
Vice President, National Programs



The National Rites of Passage Institute

3/5/2015

State of Ohio Legislature
Community Connectors Program
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Community Connectors Evaluator:

I am writing to express the support of the National Rites of Passage Institute, Inc. for the Community Connector Grant Proposal for the team of Regional STEM Collaborative, Omega Baptist Church and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This winning team epitomizes the goals of the Community Connectors Program each and every day in their missions. In their proposal, they are focused on building character, helping children set goals to be prepared for 21st century careers, developing pathways to achievement, building resiliency and helping children to believe in a positive future.

The proposal team's very unique and innovative proposal is a layered approach to surrounding children with the support they need at very critical times in their lives. The team will blend traditional one on one mentoring with group mentoring, team mentoring, peer mentoring and e-mentoring to deliver a supportive network to children across the region. These well-known, proven organizations in the Dayton Region will specifically focus on two school districts in the region where the support is most needed, Dayton Public Schools and Mad River Schools.

As best stated by our Governor, "*The power of mentorship holds great promise to help us better connect our communities with our schools, and lift up our educators and our kids. We can show them why learning matters, we can teach them about workplace culture and professional etiquette. We can help them appreciate how important good character is to success in life as well as values like hard work, discipline and personal responsibility—all of which can help motivate and inspire them to find their purpose and to reach for the stars.*"

This proposal is definitely a winner. The right organizations, with the right skills and expertise have come together to serve the children of our community. My organization is in full support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Paul Hill, Jr, MSW, LSW
President
National Rites of Passage Institute, Inc.

P.O. Box 301
13940 Cedar Road, University Heights, Ohio 44118
Office: (216) 543-0066 Fax: (216) 249-0730
E-mail: NROPI@aol.com www.ritesofpassage.org



March 4, 2015

To the Community Connectors Review Team

I am writing this letter to support The Academy For STEM and Sports (TAFSS) partnership with El Puente, Dayton Public School District, and Camino De Vida in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. The program these organizations are initiating will have a significant and positive impact on Dayton youth, a high number of whom live in abject poverty, high-crime neighborhoods, and in single-parent homes. Often these families lack meaningful access to resources, creating an environment where many are ready to give up before realizing their potential. Additionally, these young people have limited access to positive role models of similar cultural heritage and/or an engaged vision of themselves as active participants in of our community.

The program provides at-risk youth much needed mentorship, tutoring, guidance, and encouragement. The program plans in providing the youth with rewarding and life changing experiences such as:

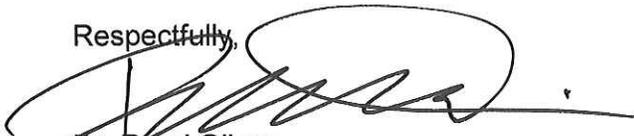
- opportunity to attend Air Academy (a summer STEM academy in conjunction with Wright Patterson AFB)
- manufacturing facilities tours and intern placement programs
- area university tours and faculty visits
- evidence-based mentoring
- quality academic tutoring from industry professionals and college students
- and multi-sport participation options

These activities will provide them with many benefits including a sense of hope for the future, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, and decision-making skills. These activities will also address the concerns of parents who want their children to be healthy, competitive, social, well-prepared and educated members of society.

As an area business and community leader, adjunct professor, and the current Vice President of the Dayton Hispanic Chamber, I am pleased to support the program's effort in providing mentoring and educational services for at-risk communities, specifically our young people with whom I am engaged regularly. I fully believe that the program's effort will achieve, and possibly exceed the goals set to help our young people avoid delinquency and pursue successful lives.

I hope that you will look favorably on this program's application. I and my many professional and community affiliations look forward in supporting this effort and its future success!

Respectfully,



Dr. Rand Oliver
Director of Business Development



Salinas Industries, Inc

1010 N. Fourth St.
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Phone 937-866-0886
Fax 937-866-7371

To the Members of the Community Connectors Review Team,

It is our pleasure to write this letter in support of The Academy For STEM & Sports (TAFSS) and their partners El Puente, Dayton Public School District, and Camino De Vida in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. The program they are executing will have a huge positive impact on the Dayton area youth. A high number of our area children are living in poverty, in single parent homes, in neighborhoods with increasing crime rates, and have limited role models. Many of these young people lack access to resources and, more tragically, the vision of themselves as active participants in of our community.

TAFSS mission is to help our community's minority and underprivileged youth to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education through an afterschool program for the children that will combine STEM education with sports participation. Fusing STEM with sports will make learning fun, especially for potential athletes who don't appreciate STEM, and will inspire them to consider STEM careers as a future option. The main focus is to teach the youth about STEM in sports and health awareness. Many do not realize that there is a lot of science, technology, engineering, and math in sports. TAFSS wants to demonstrate this through application based learning experiences.

Through education, tutoring, mentoring, and sports, TAFSS will help our community's underprivileged children understand the rewards of positive choices and to see that they have options and opportunities ahead of them. It will allow them to build relationships with professionals from the STEM fields, industry leaders, college professors and college students. With access to these positive role models who will provide mentoring and encouragement, these young people can begin to realize that long term goals are not only possible, but attainable. Through hard work and the help of TAFSS and their partnerships, our youth can gain the confidence and have the tools and opportunities to reach their full potential and become successful and healthy adults who will become assets to our community.

We are happy to help TAFSS, in part, by providing opportunities for tours of our manufacturing plant. We hope you will look favorably on this application and we look forward to helping TAFSS and their partners have a successful program!

Sincerely,

Robert Salinas
President
Salinas Industries, Inc.



4401 DAYTON-XENIA RD.
DAYTON, OH 45432-1894
PH: (937) 426-6900 FAX: (937) 429-5413
www.ues.com

March 2, 2015

State of Ohio Legislature
Community Connectors Program
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Letter of Support

Dear Community Connectors Evaluator:

I am writing to express the support of UES, Inc. for the Community Connector Grant Proposal for the team of Regional STEM Collaborative, Omega Baptist Church and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. This winning team epitomizes the goals of the Community Connectors Program each and every day in their missions. In their proposal, they are focused on building character, helping children set goals to be prepared for 21st century careers, developing pathways to achievement, building resiliency and helping children to believe in a positive future.

The proposal team's very unique and innovative proposal is a layered approach to surrounding children with the support they need at very critical times in their lives. The team will blend traditional one-on-one mentoring with group mentoring, team mentoring, peer mentoring and e-mentoring to deliver a supportive network to children across the region. These well-known, proven organizations in the Dayton Region will specifically focus on two school districts in the region where the support is most needed, Dayton Public Schools and Mad River Schools.

As best stated by our Governor, *"The power of mentorship holds great promise to help us better connect our communities with our schools, and lift up our educators and our kids. We can show them why learning matters, we can teach them about workplace culture and professional etiquette. We can help them appreciate how important good character is to success in life as well as values like hard work, discipline and personal responsibility—all of which can help motivate and inspire them to find their purpose and to reach for the stars."*

The right organizations with the right skills and expertise have come together to serve the children of our community. My organization is in full support of this proposal.

Sincerely,

UES, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nina Joshi'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned above the printed name.

Nina Joshi
President/CEO