



Barberton City Schools

... Working to be the school district of choice in this region

Administration Building
479 Norton Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.753.1025
Fax: 330.848.0884

Barberton High School
555 Barber Road
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.753.1084
Fax: 330.848.5517

Barberton Middle School
477 Fourth Street NW
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.745.9950
Fax: 330.745.9962

Barberton Elementary
School East
292 E Robinson Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.745.5492
Fax: 330.745.8378

Barberton Elementary
School West
1151 Shannon Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.825.2183
Fax: 330.825.2195

Visit our Website:
www.barbertonschools.org

February 4, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Program,

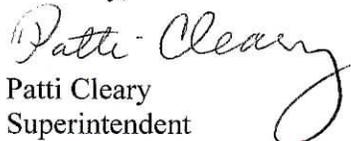
I am pleased to offer my full support for the "Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project" proposed by our leadership team. The University of Akron's College of Education has provided extensive mentorship to our 10th graders in the past, and research demonstrates the significant impact this model is having on their academic performance. I'm very excited, that this grant extends this mentorship by partnering with engaged community partners to extend high quality mentoring for at-risk youth into grades 11 and 12.

If the project is funded, I look forward to working with 10th grade Barberton High School teachers to recruit at-risk 10th grade students- in particular, those students tracked into our 10th grade English Language Arts and Social Studies Team. I believe these youth and their teachers will most benefit from this collaborative effort. We understood that under the terms of the grant we will provide access, entrance, and dedicated space to project mentors (both university and faith based) in our school to allow them the atmosphere needed to engage with students in a meaningful way. Planning time to coordinate goal setting/attainment units, time for teachers to communicate with mentors, and permission for two teachers to attend one Project Leadership Meeting will be given. We have agreed to contribute in part two 10th grade teachers (one in English Language Arts and one in Social Studies) salaries for their time invested in this project, as well as administrative support that will be responsible for maintaining mentoring space, materials, and placements.

I believe this proposal presents an innovative way for committed, caring, and dedicated community partners- The University of Akron's College of Education, Grace Church, the Barker Center for Economic Education, and Barberton High School to have a significant impact on the lives and academic trajectories of at-risk youth in our district. This proposal sets out to leverage the skills and resources of these community organizations to benefit the at-risk youth in a profound way. The mentors will assist youth in goal setting to prepare for 21st century careers, character building, the development of pathways to achievement, and help inspire a belief in a positive future.

I fully understand and support our role in "Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project." I look forward to providing expertise in the design and implementation of the initiative. Please, feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,


Patti Cleary
Superintendent



College of Education
Akron, OH 44325-4208
(330) 972.7780 Office
(330) 972.5636 Fax

February 24, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Program:

I am pleased to offer our full support for the "Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project" proposed by faculty in The University of Akron College of Education. It is my strong belief that this highly innovative and collaborative model for mentorship will greatly assist our community's most at-risk youth. As communities seek out innovative mentorship models to assist their most vulnerable youth, we're excited to share and implement our research backed model which centers upon bringing committed community partners together to help at-risk youth. The University of Akron's College of Education has a long history of providing mentorship and instructional supports to the Barberton City Schools. The commitment of faculty members, Dr. Maguth and retired faculty member Dr. Foster, and their record of success in helping at-risk youth in Barberton are commendable. This project builds on their past scholarship-based practice to extend mentorship to these highly vulnerable youth as they graduate from grades 11 to 12.

If the project is funded, we look forward to helping to impact the lives of at-risk 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students at Barberton High School by joining our community partners to support this important project. Our supports include partially contributing to the salaries and fringe benefits of two experienced faculty members, Drs. Koskey and Maguth. It must be noted that these faculty have garnished awards in their academic disciplines, and have a strong record of designing and implementing innovative programs in education. Outside of these significant contributions, the College will supply 32 well trained College of Education student mentors (96 total over three years) to help in mentoring at-risk 10th graders. Also, university faculty will deliver on-site instruction at Barberton High School in order to supervise the quality of this mentorship project. The contributing University faculty will be charged with recruiting, communicating with, and providing professional oversight and on-site instruction to all College of Education mentors. University faculty members will attend monthly Project Leadership Meetings.

Outside of contributing key personnel, the College will support this project by providing a monetary contribution that will cover transportation for two buses once each semester (at a cost of \$1,600 per year, or, \$4,800 total) that will transport up to 60 Barberton students to campus for events. Our nationally acclaimed H.K. Barker Center for Economic Education will collaborate with Raymond James Financial to provide resources and strategies to adult mentors and Barberton teachers on the topics of goal setting/attainment, personal finance, and career exploration. The College will offer 60 qualified faith based mentors the opportunity to earn up to 3 graduate credit workshop hours for their participation, all at the discounted rate of \$150 per hour (traditionally \$300 per hr.).

Community Connectors Program
February 24, 2015
Page 2

I believe this proposal presents an innovative way for our College, the Johnson Methodist Church, Raymond James Financial, and the Barberton City School District to partner to leverage resources in aiding our most vulnerable and at-risk youth. I appreciate how the collaborators are committed to helping at-risk youth set college and career goals, to promote character building, to ensure the development of pathways to achievement, and to inspire a belief in a positive future.

I fully understand and support our role in "Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through this Strong Community Mentorship Project." Rest-assured, faculty in the College of Education are well situated to hit the ground running if the project is funded in order to implement this important initiative. Thus, we strongly encourage its approval and support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Susan G. Clark, Ph.D., J.D.
Interim Dean

College of Education
Akron, OH 44325-4201

330-972-7780 • 330-972-5636 Fax • www.uakron.edu/education

The University of Akron is an Equal Education and Employment Institution

JOHNSON

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3409 Johnson Road
Norton, OH 44203
330.825.7886
officemanager@johnsonumc.org

February 26, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Program,

I am pleased to offer my full support for the “Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project” proposed by our leadership team. It is my belief, if funded by the Ohio Community Connectors Initiative, this collaborative project between Barberton Local Schools, The University of Akron’s College of Education, Raymond James Financial, and the Johnson United Methodist Church will greatly assist at-risk youth in our community.

Johnson United Methodist Church looks forward to helping to impact the lives of at-risk 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students at Barberton High School through adult members’ mentorship. Our responsibility to recruit adult mentors from our Church is an exciting opportunity where we can choose enthusiastic and committed adults to share their stories, skills, and insights- all in an attempt to help these young people navigate the challenges of adolescence. I understand that we will actively recruit and select *up to* sixty adults mentors over three years and up to two staff members on the project’s leadership team. We also understand that proselytizing is not allowed by mentors, and that mentors will receive additional training and support throughout their participation. This includes a required summer orientation for new and returning mentors. All mentors and staff will donate their time to the project, even though mileage from our Church to and from Barberton High School up to two times a month will be reimbursed.

I believe this proposal presents a collaborative way for community organizations to partner together to leverage their resources into an innovative mentorship model committed to supporting our community’s at-risk youth. I fully understand and support our role in the “Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project.” We are fully ready and willing to hit the ground running in providing the supports in the design and implementation of the initiative, and we strongly encourage its approval and support. Please, feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Rev. Tal A Lewis Jr;
Pastor, Johnson UMC

RAYMOND JAMES®

February 25, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Program,

I am pleased to offer my full support for the "Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project" proposed by our Leadership Team. It is my belief that if this innovative community based mentorship model is funded it will greatly assist our community's most at-risk youth.

Raymond James Financial in Barberton, Ohio looks forward to serving as project business partner, and working to improve the lives of at-risk 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students at Barberton High School. If this grant is funded, we plan to fully leverage the resources, time, and talents of our staff to play a part in making this a successful collaboration. We are fully aware that our responsibilities will include: helping in orienting and training adult mentors, working with high school teachers and mentors to develop instructional materials in goal setting/attainment, personal finance, career education, helping to coordinate on campus events that include a summer professional development (one each of the three years).

I believe this proposal presents an innovative way for committed, caring, and trained adults at Johnson United Methodist Church, the College of Education at The University of Akron, Raymond James Financial, and the Barberton Local Schools to have a significant impact on at-risk youth as we work to guide and support students towards their college and career goals. This proposal sets out to utilize the skills and resources of these community leaders to benefit the students in a profound and meaningful way. The collaborators will partner to assist at-risk youth in goal setting to prepare for 21st century careers, character building, the development of pathways to achievement, and to help inspire a belief in a positive future.

I fully understand and support our role in the "Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project." I look forward to providing expertise in the design and implementation of this important initiative, and I encourage your approval and support of this important project. Please, feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Dennis Liddle
Financial & Investment Advisor

RAYMOND JAMES
Financial Services, Inc.
Member FINRA/SIPC
527 W Lake Ave., Barberton, Ohio 44203
330-475-1302 Fax: 330-475-1304



February 24, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Program,

The Summit Education Initiative is pleased to offer our full support for the “ Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through Strong Community Mentorship Project” proposed by the leadership team. It is our strong belief this highly innovative and collaborative model to mentorship will greatly assist our community’s most at-risk youth. We have a rich past of working with The University of Akron’s College of Education in program evaluation and educator professional development. This includes working with Drs. Foster and Maguth in documenting the impact and reach of existing mentorship programs in-place at Barberton High School.

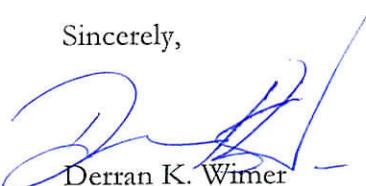
If the project is funded, we look forward to serving as a community partner on this project. We understand that we will work closely with faculty in UA’s College of Education and Barberton Local Schools educators to implement a devised program evaluation plan. In this capacity, we will work with project partners to identify the extent to which supported mentorship initiatives are influencing the lives and academic achievement of at-risk youth. In particular, we understand that we will be asked to help monitor and track at-risk students’ academic performance over the three year duration of the project. In year 1, this includes tracking the academic performance of 50 youth; in year 2, 100 youth, and in year 3, 150 youth. Tracking includes reporting mid-term and end of semester grades to the Project Leadership Team. We will make these reports available to the Project Leadership Team for overall project improvement and reporting, in compliance with existing confidentiality agreements and policies, and to assist the Project Leadership Team in tracking the performance on at-risk youth in meeting their college and career goals.

Due to our significant support for this project, we have agreed to provide our services as a cost-share. The actual value of data acquisition, analysis, and reporting is reported below along with our in-kind contribution- which is based upon our valued existing relationship and work with project partners.

Year	Total Project Value	Grant Amount	In-Kind Contribution
1	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$8,000
2	\$11,500	\$4,000	\$7,500
3	\$12,000	\$6,000	\$6,000

We fully understand and support our role as a community partner in the “Making At-Risk High School Students Visible and College Ready through this Strong Community Mentorship Project.” We are well situated to hit the ground running if the project is funded in order to implement this significant initiative. Thus, we strongly encourage its approval and support. Please, feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Derran K. Wimer
Executive Director