



# EAST CLEVELAND CITY SCHOOLS

**Myrna Loy Corley, Superintendent of Schools**  
1843 Stanwood Road • East Cleveland, Ohio 44112  
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(216) 268-6580 • Fax: (216) 268-6648

February 25, 2015

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Advisory Board:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support relative to the proposal being submitted by Youth Opportunities Unlimited to the Ohio Department of Education to implement the Community Connectors Program. Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) empowers youth to succeed in school, in the workplace, and in life. Academic and career success are the most impactful, positive, and direct cost-effective route for teens to escape the cycle of poverty. Y.O.U. programs focus on empowering teens to succeed utilizing goal-focused mentoring.

The East Cleveland City School District is committed to providing programs and initiatives to meet the academic and psycho-social needs of our students. Accordingly, the Community Connectors Program will greatly assist in providing significant opportunities for students to achieve at their maximum potential, in that the program is designed to meet the needs of the "whole" child.

Y.O.U. has consistently demonstrated its ability to encourage students to graduate from high school. Additionally, Y.O.U. has demonstrated a successful track record in placing youth on jobs, and assisting students in transitioning from high school to post-secondary endeavors, including college and careers. The Y.O.U. program model that includes a staff member housed directly in our schools is positively impactful and beneficial, as this model provides additional adult role model(s) and resources to achieve each school's strategic goals.

Y.O.U. understands the comprehensive nature of the transformation vision for the Community Connectors Program. It is without hesitation that I pledge support of this initiative. Further, the District will provide necessary space and access to our youth to ensure the success of the program.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Myrna Loy Corley".

Myrna Loy Corley  
East Cleveland Superintendent



KEITH M. BELL, SR.  
SUPERINTENDENT

EUCLID CITY SCHOOLS  
651 EAST 222ND STREET  
EUCLID, OHIO 44123

euclidschools.org  
P: 216.797.2901  
F: 216.261.3120

February 25, 2015

The Community Connectors Advisory Board  
The Ohio Department of Education  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Advisory Board:

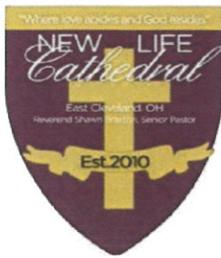
I am pleased to offer this letter of support for Youth Opportunities Unlimited's proposal to the Ohio Department of Education to implement the Community Connectors program. Y.O.U. provides workforce preparation services and entrepreneurship training to youth 14-19 in Northeast Ohio who live in families near, at, or below poverty level. They work in partnership with school districts, employers, nonprofits and others.

Y.O.U. has had a presence in Euclid High School for the past 21 years. Specifically the organization has provided mentoring programming to our students for the last seven years, connecting adult mentors and volunteers to our youth. Housing a Y.O.U. Career Coach at the high school, who delivers the program and provides teens with yet another adult role model, has made a tremendous impact on the lives of these teens.

It is with great pleasure that I fully recommend Y.O.U. for the Community Connectors program. Their history and success rates demonstrate they are well suited to carry out the program's mission to bring together students, their families, schools, faith-based groups, businesses and communities to help youth succeed. If this project is funded, the Euclid City School District will provide support through the provision of space and access to youth.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Bell, Sr.  
Superintendent



16200 Euclid Avenue  
East Cleveland, OH 44112  
(216) 851-2777

March 2, 2015

The Community Connectors Advisory Board  
The Ohio Department of Education  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Advisory Board:

Please accept this letter in support of Youth Opportunities Unlimited's proposal to The Ohio Department of Education to implement the Community Connectors program.

The vision of New Life Cathedral is similar to Y.O.U.'s mission to transform lives and ensure every individual feels significant and empowered. Y.O.U. has been producing life-changing outcomes for Cleveland's youth since 1982. They know the impact a stable adult can have on a teen that comes from a challenging background.

As a member of the collaborative we will participate in leadership meetings and implement elements of the faith-based mentoring component. In addition, we will make our church space available for certain program events.

Choosing Y.O.U. to implement the Community Connectors program makes perfect sense as they already encourage mentoring opportunities and have years of experience creating pathways for civic engagement that has already resulted in higher educational achievement and workforce readiness for our youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Braxton", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Pastor Shawn Braxton  
New Life Cathedral



# Celebration United Methodist Church

771 East 260<sup>th</sup> Street

Euclid, Ohio 44132

(216) 797-1990

(216) 797-1976

[www.churchofthecelebration.org](http://www.churchofthecelebration.org)

Pastor Dogba Bass, [revdrb.celebrateumc@gmail.com](mailto:revdrb.celebrateumc@gmail.com)

February 24, 2015

The Community Connectors Advisory Board  
The Ohio Department of Education  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Advisory Board:

We are excited to support Youth Opportunities Unlimited's proposal to The Ohio Department of Education to implement the Community Connectors program.

Becoming a member of the faith-based Collaborative to promote a positive, goal-oriented environment for disadvantaged youth is aligned with our stated goals of doing more for the spiritual needs of our congregation's young families.

Y.O.U.'s middle name – Opportunities – is at the core of our mission. We are surrounded by opportunities and resources that our youth can and must access in order to become productive, self-sufficient adults. The core of our church's membership is active and retired school teachers and guidance counselors. Over the years, we have been actively engaged in after-school and summer programs for academic remediation and enhancement. With a Cleveland Foundation grant, we partnered with TRI-C to produce the Cleveland Scholastic Challenge that ran on Cleveland's Channel 16 in Cleveland. We see ourselves as the "education church." We support our students' educational pursuits from kindergarten to college. Our Mission, Vision, and Core Values mesh really well with Y.O.U. and we would be thrilled to be part of a program that is working to connect youth with these opportunities through faith-based mentoring, support, affirmation, and inspiration.

As a recognized leader in our County's youth workforce development, Y.O.U. is an excellent choice to implement the Community Connectors program. They have participated in Best Practices that help urban youth succeed, including intensive mentoring, comprehensive long-term services, and pursuit of post-secondary education.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dogba Bass

Celebration United Methodist Church

**CONCORD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**914 Caledonia Road**  
**Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118**  
**(216) 249-1455**  
**Reverend Lorenzo Norris, Pastor**

February 24, 2015

The Community Connectors Advisory Board  
The Ohio Department of Education  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Advisory Board:

I am pleased to support Youth Opportunities Unlimited's proposal to The Ohio Department of Education to implement the Community Connectors program.

At Concord Church, we focus on the very real needs of real people. This is exactly what Y.O.U. does – focus on the needs of youth in poverty and utilize the resources of the community to help these teens get a much-needed leg up in life. Y.O.U. is making a real difference in our community by teaching youth the critical employability and resiliency skills they need to become self-sufficient.

I have followed Y.O.U.'s work in the community for many years; many of my congregants are enrolled in Y.O.U. programs. I have a deep respect for Y.O.U.'s mission to keep our teens in school and make sure they graduate. They have achieved high success rates in these areas through goal-focused mentoring from the Career Coaches who not only deliver the programs, but form a deep caring relationship with their students.

The Concord Church will take its membership role in the Collaborative seriously. We look forward to contributing to leadership meetings, participating in faith-based mentoring, and sharing our church when needed for program-related events.

Y.O.U. is a terrific choice to implement the Community Connector's program because the organization's Job Coaches and hundreds of business volunteers are already successfully mentoring youth.

Sincerely,

  
Senior Pastor Lorenzo Norris  
Concord Church



**SHERWIN-WILLIAMS.**

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Gregory Galvin  
Vice President, Human Resources  
Diversified Brands Division

February 24, 2015

The Community Connectors Advisory Board  
The Ohio Department of Education  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Advisory Board:

Please accept this letter of support for Youth Opportunities Unlimited's proposal to implement the DOE's Community Connectors program.

Sherwin Williams was founded in 1866 and has grown to be one of the largest producers of paints and coatings in the world. We are committed to supporting the communities in which we do business, therefore we are pleased to endorse Y.O.U.'s proposal and become a contributing participant in a project that directly impacts the surrounding communities.

We look forward to exposing youth to career opportunities in our organization as well as opportunities to help build skills. One example of our commitment to building skills is the Behavior Based Interviewing training developed by Sherwin Williams that will be piloted this year with students in the program. We are also pleased to offer our employees mentoring opportunities in support of this program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory Galvin



March 3, 2015

The Community Connectors Advisory Board  
The Ohio Department of Education  
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Advisory Board:

Cleveland Clinic is delighted to submit this letter of support for Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) and the proposal to implement the DOE's *Community Connectors* program.

As Cuyahoga County's largest employer, Cleveland Clinic is committed to building healthy local neighborhoods and supporting livelihoods. Our Enterprise has been a proud, productive partner with Y.O.U. in this area, providing financial and educational support in the quest to provide employment opportunities for hundreds of youth. As part of this effort our caregivers have, over several years, helped to expose Y.O.U. teens to careers in the medical / health care field, offered tours of our hospitals and provided informative speakers to youth enrolled in Y.O.U. programs.

It is no secret that jobs are critical to the physical and economic health of communities. Perhaps no area in the US is as in need of such services and opportunities as Northeast Ohio. Through professional and intern opportunities, jobs provide a sense of purpose and a safe environment for teens to work and learn. These young people learn the skills they need to obtain a job and – equally important – to retain it. Teens learn first-hand about different careers that, with more education, lead to rewarding careers. A hallmark of Y.O.U. jobs programs is that participants are mentored by Y.O.U. staff and their worksite supervisors. This is a program – and an organization – that really works!

Through the Community Connectors program, Cleveland Clinic would be pleased to enhance our partnership with Y.O.U. and continue to provide youth with career opportunities in the healthcare industry, while continuing to engage our caregivers as mentors.

Y.O.U. would make an excellent choice to implement the Community Connectors program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Abood", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Christopher Abood  
Director Community Partnerships and Employee Engagement  
Cleveland Clinic