

Embracing opportunities . . . Appreciating small town life

Carroll County Gusher

PO Box 300 Malvern, OH 44644-0300

October 16, 2013

Dear Dr. Quattrochi,

I was delighted to meet with you and Ed Robinson to learn more about the ***Straight A Fund*** application you will be submitting to Ohio Department of Education.

My husband and I started the ***Carroll County Gusher*** website in 2012 to promote the dual goals of helping readers: 1) understand the economic opportunities coming to Carroll County, and 2) appreciate and protect the joys and values of rural living.

During the past 21 months we have been delighted to watch the number of local jobs increase by 36 percent. But, we are also saddened to know the majority of new jobs are currently held by already trained out-of-state-workers.

The Carrollton POWER/STEM Digital project you and Mr. Robinson have developed promises to be the "missing link" to help today's students qualify for the estimated 200,000 new jobs that will be available in Ohio as the energy industry continues to grow.

You have developed impressive partnerships with national business leaders now working in our region; area educational facilities; agricultural leaders; and other key individuals. The networking, cooperatives, internships and research you envision for Carrollton POWER/STEM Digital are inspiring.

Your plans to "blow up" the traditional educational model centered on *a textbook and a teacher* and move your classrooms to the expanding, cutting edge environment literally in your own backyard makes this project worthy of ODE support! The digital resources you describe will enable you to both access and share all the promises this project is designed to deliver.

You should easily achieve the objectives of the Straight A Fund to foster innovative ideas and significantly reduce administrative overhead. I expect more of the companies locating in Carroll County to join forces with you and to contribute valuable resources. After all, your project will help grow and mold their future workforces.

You have truly developed a synergistic model and I wholeheartedly believe the result of what you are structuring will be tremendously greater than the sum of its parts.

Finally, I want you to know how touched I was to see the passion both you and Mr. Robinson have for your work as educators and for the possibilities of this project. Your energy "sealed the deal" for me as far as believing in your future success. It will be my pleasure to track and report on this project as it moves forward. We know our readers will be interested in your results!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Faa". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Linda Faa
Carroll County Gusher
330-863-1185