SOUTHERN OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Southern Ohio Educational Service Center

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Tony Long
Superintendent

www.southernohioesc.org

Roy Alleyn Unversaw Jr.
Treasurer

October 23, 2013

Dear Straight A Fund Committee,

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the Clinton-Brown-Highland Consortia and their initiative into technology and providing skills for the 21st century. As superintendent of the Southern Ohio Educational Service Center (SOESC), I can attest to the commitment of the districts joined in this endeavor.

These districts reside in an area of the state that has been referred to as the epicenter for the economic depression in the country. The largest employer in the area relocated, leaving thousands of our families without income. Across the region, the percentage of Economically Disadvantaged subgroups of students has dramatically increased. Many families in this region do not have access to the technology offered within this grant opportunity.

This grant opportunity would allow the schools to increase student achievement by provide learning opportunities for students in non-traditional ways by extending learning beyond the classroom and beyond the normal school day. Students will be more prepared for college or careers due to the exposure to the technologies provided and the professional development provided to the teachers.

The SOESC has partnered with Blanchester Local Schools, East Clinton Local Schools, Lynchburg-Clay Local Schools and Fayetteville-Perry Local Schools to improve student achievement for many years. I am excited that three SOESC school districts have partnered with a local school district outside our region, with similar demographics, to significantly reduce spending. This partnership is a perfect example of how shared services, which have been encouraged by Governor Kasich and Superintendent Ross, benefit children.

As the Southern Ohio ESC superintendent, I will assist in bringing high quality professional development to the region that will support the teacher skills needed to make this undertaking successful.

Thank you for your consideration in this effort. I strongly recommend the approval of the Straight A Fund grant request of the Clinton-Brown-Highland Consortia.

Sincerely,

Tony Long, Superintendent
Southern Ohio Educational Service Center