10/18/2013

Jackson Local Schools
Mr. Christopher DiLoreto
Superintendent
7602 Fulton Drive
Massillon, OH 44646

Dear Mr. DiLoreto:

As Coordinator of the Stark County ESC’s Science And Math on the Move (Samm) program, I am writing to inform you that the Samm Center is committed to assist with the Science And Math on the Move (Samm) project. For the past eighteen years, Samm has provided technology and professional development to member districts. This project will enable us to reinvent and expand the Samm program with cutting-edge technology, as well as design professional development that will provide teachers with skills to develop creative and innovative learning experiences for our students – better preparing them with 21st Century skills.

Samm will continue to provide district support by coordinating equipment loans, equipment delivery, and equipment pick up. Samm will also coordinate professional development for new technology purchased through grant funds and Project/Problem-Based Learning (PBL). Samm will enhance the Samm website on the Stark County ESC site by housing teacher-created PBL lessons, compiled performance-based assessment materials, and on-line professional development.

On behalf of approximately 62,370 students enrolled in the 22 school districts and one career technical center from Stark, Wayne, and Carroll Counties affiliated with the Stark County Educational Service Center; I would like to thank the Jackson Local School District for agreeing to serve as the lead applicant for this project.

Sincerely,

Dale J. Gallucci
Samm Program Coordinator
Stark County ESC Science Coordinator

Vision - Service - Leadership
Oct. 15, 2013

Mr. Christopher DiLoreto, Superintendent
Jackson Local Schools
7602 Fulton Dr. N.W.
Massillon, OH 44646

Dear Mr. DiLoreto,

The Stark County Educational Service Center is pleased to support the consortium efforts of twenty-two school districts affiliated with the ESC in their Straight A proposal. The Stark County ESC will provide support through a variety of services as the consortium works to utilize a greater share of resources to the classroom.

The ESC will provide guidance, data and research to the consortium as they develop this grant proposal to enhance the SAMM Center. Technical assistance will be provided to coordinate, register and track professional development on SAMM Center technology and project-based learning activities through the “My Workshops” site. In addition, the ESC will provide support to grant activities through the expertise of the ESC math consultant and SAMM Center coordinator.

The collaboration of the Stark County ESC with the twenty-two districts including the Career Center, higher education and the business community has always been a hallmark of all education-related programs in Stark County. This Straight A proposal will be another example of collaboration through the mutual efforts of all parties involved.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Larry Morgan
Superintendent, Stark County ESC
October 15, 2013

Mr. Christopher DiLoreto, Superintendent
Jackson Local Schools
7602 Fulton Dr. N.W.,
Massillon, OH 44646

Dear Mr. DiLoreto,

It is a pleasure to write a letter of support for the Straight A Grant Fund application that supports the efforts of the 22 school districts affiliated with the Stark County Educational Service Center through the SAMM Center.

We will continue to provide support for the SAMM center by: working with other partners to build an advanced manufacturing career website that is similar to the oil and gas career website at: http://oogeep.org/industry-workforce/careers/. What will be particularly useful about this site is that you will find a listing of the credentials needed for the career as well as all of the educational institutions in Northeast Ohio that offer the credentials. This idea has been discussed at Regional Economic Competitiveness Strategy (RECS) meetings as one way to advancing the work of the Educational Attainment and Workforce committees. RECS represents business and philanthropy and includes heads of metro chambers in Northeast Ohio, our Regional Economic Development Organizations including Team NEO, and senior leadership from the Fund For our Economic Future and the Cleveland Foundation. The results of the RECS work will be submitted to Jobs Ohio.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Adrienne O’Neill, Ed.D.
President
October 7, 2013

Christopher D. Loretto, Superintendent
Jackson Local Schools
7602 Fulton Dr. NW
Massillon, OH 44646

Dear Mr. DiLoretto:

On behalf of Stark State College, I am pleased to confirm our support for the proposed partnership with a consortium of 22 school districts affiliated with the Stark County Educational Service Center to develop a Straight A grant to the Ohio Department of Education.

As you are aware, Stark State College has been successful in developing STEM-related curriculum, and the prospect of upgrading technology at the SAMM Center (Science And Math on the Move), developing STEM-related activities that incorporate the arts and medicine, and providing professional development on project-based learning that includes creativity and innovation is exciting.

We are enthusiastic about the promise that this collaborative effort brings in terms of our collective ability to serve the rapidly emerging needs of the existing and emerging subsectors in the STEM areas. We are pleased to be part of a coordinated effort to ensure that there is a well-prepared, qualified workforce for years to come, and a comprehensive STEM educational program will certainly help us move toward that goal.

Thank you for your continued leadership in this area. We look forward to working with our colleagues across the area in the development of this critical initiative. On behalf of everyone here at Stark State College, I wish you and your team every success with your application.

Sincerely,

Lada Gibson-Shreve, Ph.D.
Provost and Chief Academic Officer
October 10, 2013

Christopher DiLoreto – Superintendent
Jackson Local School District
7602 Fulton Dr. N.W.
Massillon, OH 44646

Dear Superintendent DiLoreto:

I am writing this letter on behalf of The Timken Company to express our support for your request to receive a grant from the Straight A Grant Fund. This request is in support of 22 school districts and will focus on upgrading technology for the SAMM Center (Science and Math on the Move), developing STEM-related activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), and provide professional development on project-based learning. The SAMM Center has been a great asset to the county, allowing the districts to share assets that would be expensive for any one district to purchase and that don’t need to be available to the students on a daily basis. This is a great way to pilot new programs and share best practice ideas across the district. As a major employer in this region, we are very interested in programs that support cross-district collaboration and this is a fine example of such a program.

The Straight A grant would allow the SAMM Center to expand to include equipment that will enhance students experience in advanced manufacturing. This is important to Timken as a manufacturer of precision equipment as well as for the region’s aerospace industry focus. The addition of fundamental machining equipment and robotics technology will give students hands on learning that is valuable to their future ability to work in this industry and help maintain Northeast Ohio’s position as a major manufacturing business attraction site. We fully endorse this request and will be working with the team to develop this program and develop closer business-education ties for the students of this community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elizabeth L. Engels
Manager – Community Relations
The Timken Company
Oct. 21, 2013

Christopher DiLoreto
Superintendent
Jackson Local School District
7602 Fulton Dr. NW
Massillon, OH 44646

Dear Superintendent DiLoreto:

The Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce offers its enthusiastic support for the Straight A Grant application from the Jackson Local School District and 21 other districts affiliated with the Stark County Educational Service Center and the SAMM (Science and Math on the Move) Center.

We believe that the public school districts in our area are leaders in shared services, and the SAMM Center is a prime example. It provides participating school districts with science lesson kits, materials for science labs and sophisticated scientific equipment on loan.

In many cases, this loaned equipment makes Advance Placement and college-credit classes possible at schools that could not afford to buy the equipment. Without the equipment, they could not offer classes with enough rigor to qualify for AP or college credit.

We are excited to think about the possibilities of expanding SAMM's services through development of STEM-related activities, professional development and complementary websites. We hope that a successful Straight A Grant application can make this possible.

When an expanded SAMM Center needs connections with the business community, we would be happy to help. We remain poised to be a business partner for area school districts and educational organizations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dennis P. Sammler
President and CEO