

October 23, 2013

Mount Vernon Nazarene University
800 Martinsburg Road
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050

Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Straight A Fund Reviewers,

Mount Vernon Nazarene University (MVNU) is excited to partner with Marion City Schools in their innovative project "Transforming the Classroom Through Data Analysis and Coaching". This project will provide amazing blended learning opportunities for district and building leaders in maximizing learning for students through the effective use of data. Research shows that blended professional development is beneficial as it combines the best of face-to-face instruction and online learning (Owston, Wideman, Murphy, & Lupshenyuk, 2008). This educational shift will provide amazing opportunities for students ensuring greater success in the workforce and in college.

MVNU will bring our expertise of providing high quality professional development to this endeavor. As a stakeholder in Marion's project, MVNU will partner in a series of professional development sessions focusing on the use of a learning management system, Quality Matters, and student assessment. We require all of our professional development to be aligned to Ohio's Standards for the Teaching Profession, Ohio's New Learning Standards, and MVNU's Teacher Education Conceptual Framework. We look forward to building a meaningful project that will have such a profound impact in education and the lives of Granville's students.

Sincerely,



C. Damon Osborne, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education and Professional Studies
Mount Vernon Nazarene University