DESCRIPTION OF NATURE OF CONSORTIUM RELATIONSHIP

An education consortium is an association of two or more school districts, school buildings, community schools or STEM schools pooling resources to share human and material assets and link academic and administrative resources with the objective of participating in the development and execution of a Straight A Fund grant application. A grant application submitted by an education consortium uses the shared resources of its members to achieve the goals of the grant application through cooperative purchasing, course sharing, professional development, information technology integration and/or faculty and staff networking. Unlike a partnership, each member of an education consortium is responsible for ensuring the Straight A Fund grant application is developed and executed according to the terms of the grant agreement with the Straight A Program Governing Board. Like individual grant applicants, an education consortium can partner with educational stakeholder(s) via a Partnership Agreement to accomplish the goals of the grant application.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Straight A Fund throughout the state, each education consortium must identify each member of the education consortium and attach a description of each respective member’s role and responsibilities. Additionally, a separate Description of Nature of Partnership must be submitted for any educational stakeholder(s) partnering with the education consortium.

Each member of the education consortium is responsible for the following assurances:

1. Be knowledgeable about the consortium’s Straight A Fund grant proposal and application, including advocacy of the Straight A Fund program.
2. Sign and accept the Straight A Program Grant Assurances.
3. Maintain familiarity with the consortium’s members and services to enhance the proposal, including specific goals and practices.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to clear roles and responsibilities of each consortium member as it relates to the grant proposal and application.
5. Sustain consistent communication among consortium members and stakeholders with a shared vision of the goals of the grant proposal. This includes participating in regularly scheduled meetings for project management and identifying areas for improvement.
6. Ensure consortium members have appropriate access to data for purposes of grant program improvement and evaluation in accordance with state and federal law.
7. Develop a clear project management plan to sustain the grant project over time.

Education Consortium Signatures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead Applicant/Consortium Member</th>
<th>Secondary Applicant/Consortium Member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Brenda Boeke</td>
<td>Name: Shelly Vaughn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title: Superintendent</td>
<td>Title: Superintendent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRN: 045948</td>
<td>IRN: 048586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 419-625-3397</td>
<td>Phone: 419-375-4139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:brenda.boeke@minsterschools.org">brenda.boeke@minsterschools.org</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:vaughn@fortrecoveryschools.org">vaughn@fortrecoveryschools.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address: 50 East Seventh Street</td>
<td>Address: 400 East Butler Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City: Minister</td>
<td>City: Fort Recovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State: Ohio</td>
<td>State: Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip: 45865</td>
<td>Zip: 45846</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign: [Signature]</td>
<td>Sign: [Signature]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date: 10/15/2013</td>
<td>Date: 10/15/2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Pohman</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Overman</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Waterman</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rod Moorman</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
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<th>Name</th>
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<th>IRN</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State</th>
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<td>Rod Moorman</td>
<td>10/15/2013</td>
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</table>
DESCRIPTION OF NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP

A partnership is an association between a grant applicant and educational stakeholder(s) in which the stakeholder agrees to provide human and material assets or access to academic and administrative resources to the grant applicant to develop or execute a Straight A Fund grant application. However, in a partnership, only the grant applicant is responsible for ensuring the grant is developed and executed according to the terms of the grant agreement with the Straight A Program Governing Board. Grant applicant partners are responsible only to the extent provided in their Partnership Agreement with the grant applicant.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Straight A Fund throughout the state, applicants are encouraged to partner with education stakeholders. Each applicant must identify its partners and attach a description of each respective partner’s roles and responsibilities.

Each member of the partnership is responsible for the following assurances:

1. Be knowledgeable about the applicant’s Straight A Fund grant proposal and application, including advocacy of the Straight A Fund program.
2. Maintain familiarity with the partner’s services to enhance the proposal, including specific goals and practices.
3. Demonstrate a commitment to clear roles and responsibilities of each partner as it relates to the grant proposal and application.
4. Sustain consistent communication among partners and stakeholders with a shared vision of the goals of the grant proposal. This includes participating in regularly scheduled meetings for project management and identifying areas for improvement.
5. Ensure partners have appropriate access to data for purposes of grant program improvement and evaluation in accordance with state and federal law.
6. Develop a clear project management plan to sustain the project over time.

**Partnership Signatures**

**Applicant**

Name: Brenda Booke  
Title: Minister Local School District  
IRN: 645648  
Phone: 419-826-3507  
Email: brenda.Booke@ministerschools.org  
Address: 50 East Seventh Street  
City: Minster  
State: Ohio  
Zip: 45855

Sign:  
Date: 10/23/2013

**Primary Partner**

Name: Jared Ebbing  
Title: Community / Economic Development Director  
Tax ID/IRN: [Redacted]  
Phone: 419-568-4209  
Email: Jared.Ebbing@mercercountyohio.org  
Address: 101 N. Main St. - Room 102  
City: Celina  
State: Ohio  
Zip: 45822

Sign:  
Date: 10/23/2013
Secondary Applicant (if applicable)

Name: 
Title: 
IRN: 
Phone: 
Email: 
Address: 
City: 
State: 
Zip: 

Sign: 
Date: 

Secondary Partner (if applicable)

Name: Pearson Connections Learning - Rico Casciero 
Title: Virtual Learning Specialist 
Tax ID/IRN: 
Phone: 443-873-1743 
Email: rricociero@connectionseducation.com 
Address: 
City: 
State: 
Zip: 

Sign: 
Date: 10/23/2013 

Secondary Applicant (if applicable)

Name: 
Title: 
IRN: 
Phone: 
Email: 
Address: 
City: 
State: 
Zip: 

Sign: 
Date: 

Secondary Partner (if applicable)

Name: AOE Academy - Deb Munis 
Title: Director of Educational Options 
Tax ID/IRN: 000288 
Phone: 419-738-4572 
Email: dmunis@uglaurel.org 
Address: 1130 E. Albert Street 
City: Lima 
State: Ohio 
Zip: 45804 

Sign: 
Date: 10/23/2013 

Secondary Applicant (if applicable)

Name: 
Title: 
IRN: 
Phone: 
Email: 
Address: 
City: 
State: 
Zip: 

Sign: 
Date: 

Secondary Partner (if applicable)

Name: 
Title: 
Tax ID/IRN: 
Phone: 
Email: 
Address: 
City: 
State: 
Zip: 

Sign: 
Date: 

State of Ohio
Office of Children's Services 

Date: 

http://www.ohio.gov/ocsva
To Whom It May Concern:

The staff at Auglaize County Educational Academy overwhelmingly supports the consortium's application for the Straight A grant. Many of the schools within the consortium have worked with ACE Academy on developing online possibilities for their students. Much of the collaboration has been centered on preparing students for the high level of technology that will occur within the educational environment they will encounter. The schools have encouraged students to participate in courses that typically were not available within their districts, to stretch their curriculum to match their skill level and to remedy credit that was not obtained. The most exciting projects that the districts and ACE are undergoing involve Northwestern University (Evanston, IL) and Rhodes State College (Lima, OH). Northwestern is working with the staff to develop courses that meet the educational as well as social and emotional needs of gifted students. This will allow districts to reach more of their gifted students in grade levels and areas that they have not been able to serve for a variety of reasons. Rhodes State and the team have been working on developing a variety of certificate courses that has a majority of the coursework delivered online with the essential labs provided onsite. This will allow students to remain in their peer group and still obtain certificates and or college credit before graduation. Districts have used ACE Academy to create online formative assessments that are used to determine student skill attainment. Intervention specialists use ACE Academy to assess students to determine performance levels for IEPs and ETRs. The staff has also provided professional development for the teachers on 21st Century Learning and Teaching. This provided teachers with methods to differentiate instruction and use technology effectively for students and increase the capacity of everyone.

The schools within this consortium are on the verge of great things for students through the use of technology. While there are a variety of options, this grant would allow the schools to develop a continuum of opportunities for students that include 21st century skills which are embedded in their everyday activities. The high motivation to serve students and families makes this consortium a stand out over all other applicants the committee will receive.

Sincerely,

Deborah Munis
Director of Educational Options
Auglaize County Educational Options

Auglaize County Educational Academy is an Equal Opportunity school and does not discriminate with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, or handicapped status.
October 22, 2013

To whom it may concern:

As the Mercer County Economic Development Director, I am writing this letter to show my strong support for the MERCER/AUGLAIZE SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM’S Straight-A Grant proposal. Their “GROW” grant application is exactly the type of imaginative, pro-active approach needed as we strive to more efficiently work together in connecting the educational needs of our students with the future career demands across the State of Ohio.

One year ago, our office began to work very closely with these same local schools on an initiative called HometownOpportunity. Although it began with an idea and a simple website (www.HometownOpportunity.com), it is quickly evolving into something even more promising as we look to make meaningful connections between our educators, students, and the local business community.

As a part of their “GROW” grant application, an outreach specialist is identified as an instrument to implement even more imaginative and efficient ways of creating a sustainable link between our businesses and our schools’ educational/guidance staff. As we all look for ways to modernize traditional platforms of reaching students, I can think of no better way than to have a specialist focus solely on “connecting the most important dots” in a student’s career path journey. Our local Economic Development offices are and will continue to make a commitment to sustain this initiative. Upon the expected approval and implementation of this grant, our local business and industry leaders have committed to funding the outreach specialist position after the first year (and into the future) as the benefits are undeniable.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Jared C. Ebbing, Director
Mercer County Community/Economic Development
RE: GROW project by Auglaize/Mercer Consortium

The Economic Development Office for the Village of New Bremen is a strong supporter of the Auglaize/Mercer Consortium GROW project. The economic development professionals of the region are committed to the development of the pipeline as a part of the needs of local industry.

Career readiness begins in the formative years and continues to develop as students prepare for adulthood. It is essential to deliver awareness of surroundings as well as opportunity beyond. Every community member has a responsibility of nurturing our youth to find a path of success. K-Job (Kindergarten-Job) requires partnership between businesses, economic development and educators.

As educators, employers, economic development professionals and community residents, we are all responsible for how we want our communities to look in 5-10 years. The common thread to our vision is the need to retain our greatest asset: youth.

Our region has a stellar record for post-secondary students being highly recruited for internship programs in the urban areas. Groundwork needs to be laid to 'recruit' those students as interns in our local area, versus trying to win them back after they have left the area. Innovative and collaborative efforts need to educate the students on how their learning can be applied, right here, in their own backyards.

Presently our office supports numerous initiatives that attempt to segue into other programs. While Auglaize & Mercer counties have a great deal to be proud of, regarding complementary grass-root efforts of many, the missing piece is a single individual responsible to build on the foundation and provide the linkage. The acquisition of an Outreach Specialist would fill this void. The Outreach Specialist would be the resource that links all the programs together, providing continuity. While the programs have been developed to build on the previous program, the students do not retain the awareness from the previous program. The Outreach Specialist would be able to 'connect those dots' for the students.

We, the community, are responsible to ensure our communities continue to be vibrant. Funding from 'Straight A Fund' would be able to provide the seed money for the continued development of well-educated and career-ready students. The GROW project will be able to provide students the necessary tools to make informed and decisive career plans.

Angela Hamberg
Economic Development Director
Village of New Bremen
This letter is in support of the request for Straight A Grant funds being made by the consortium of Minster, Ft. Recovery, Marion, New Bremen, New Knoxville and St. Henry Local School Districts. Their Graduate all, Reach all, Opportunities for all to develop the local Workforce (GROW) project includes requesting startup funds for a Workforce Outreach Specialist position.

I serve as the newly elected President of the Board of Directors for the Auglaize/Mercer Business – Education Alliance” [AMBE Alliance]. The primary purpose of our organization is to:

- provide opportunities for students’ career exploration
- assist schools and students to understand workforce opportunities offered by local businesses
- bring resources to enrich the curriculum of local schools
- assist in identifying school teaching that is relevant to skills required of industry
- improve the education setting through upgrading facilities or equipment
- connect schools with local businesses
- assist with curriculum development, new learning opportunities and skill development
- provide businesses with learning experiences and understanding of the educational system
- integrate students into the labor market by involving them in cooperative education experiences
- meet the labor market needs of business and industry

Our first order of business is to raise funds in order to hire a Workforce Outreach Specialist. The job description for the Workforce Outreach Specialist includes being the primary liaison between local industries and the school system. The main responsibility will be to facilitate and develop programs that will encourage the appropriate skills in workforce to meet the needs of Auglaize and Mercer County businesses. The AMBE Alliance is committed to sustaining the Workforce Outreach Specialist position. Receiving startup money will allow our organization to impact the lives of students sooner. This organization has an approved Code of Regulations and prepared our Articles of Organization. We have elected a nine member Board of Directors and will next begin the 501 [c] [3] application process. We are committed to creating this position and the Straight A Grant startup money will help us succeed.

Your assistance in granting the funding request for the Workforce Outreach Specialist as part of the GROW project is appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
October 18, 2013

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the request for Straight A Grant funds being made by the consortium of Minster, Ft. Recovery, Marion, New Bremen, New Knoxville and St. Henry Local School districts. Their Graduate all, Reach all, Opportunities for all to develop the local workforce (GROW) project includes requesting startup funds for a Workforce Outreach Specialist position.

The Workforce Outreach Specialist position is being implemented through the Hometown Opportunities Organization. This organization is a direct result of the collaboration among businesses and school officials in Auglaize and Mercer County. The job description for the Workforce Outreach Specialist includes being the primary liaison between local industries and the school system. The main responsibility will be to facilitate and develop programs that will encourage the appropriate skills in the workforce to meet the needs of Auglaize and Mercer County businesses. The local businesses in Auglaize and Mercer County have committed to sustaining the Workforce Outreach Specialist position.

We have created the Auglaize/Mercer Business-Education Alliance (AMBE Alliance). We have approved a code of regulations for the alliance and prepared the Articles of Organization. We have elected a nine member Board of Directors and will next begin the 501 [c] [3] application process. The organization is committed to funding the Workforce Outreach Specialist position in the future.

Your assistance in granting the funding request for the Workforce Outreach Specialist as part of the GROW project is appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jack Buschur
President