

October 21, 2013

TO: "Straight A Fund" Grant Application Review Team

FROM: William K. Balzer, Dean
Bowling Green State University



RE: Partnership Letter of Support
Erie County Consortium of Schools Proposal

I am delighted to offer the support of BGSU Firelands to the grant proposal submitted by the Erie County Consortium of Schools to enhance academic achievement and expand educational opportunities through an innovative program of apprentice teachers and personalized learning. BGSU Firelands, located in Erie County with an enrollment of approximately 2500 students, hosts the Bachelor's Degree in Education – Early Childhood Education on our campus as well as a number of STEM-related associate and bachelor's academic programs. The proposal would provide excellent professional development opportunities for our students during their academic career, and help them distinguish themselves in a competitive market upon graduation. The financial support for our students would help support the retention and graduation of students on our campus, achieving an important higher education goal identified by Governor Kasich.

Overall, we believe this grant proposal will support the educational accomplishments of students along the entire K-16 continuum. We are committed to actively participating in this grant if funding is approved.