

Ridgemont Local School District

Ms. Emmy M. Davis, Superintendent

Mr. Fred M. Reinemeyer, Treasurer

The Ridgemont Demonstration School of Workforce Development Partnership Agreement

Partnerships Make A Difference was founded in 1996 by experienced and committed educators whose mission is to help young people develop a *sense of passion and purpose* for their own learning, and to enhance students' belief that they can positively impact their own lives and the lives of others. Toward that end, our organization has successfully focused on helping schools and community organizations strengthen such program areas as service-learning, Project Based Learning, career development, dropout prevention, and character education.

Partnerships Make A Difference promotes and expands the use of service learning and Project Based Learning as strategies for instructional improvement, student empowerment, and positive community impact. This focus is evident in our work with the "Growing Together" Service-Learning Network. The organization provides a expertise in professional development opportunities to "Growing Together" Network member schools, which Ridgemont is one of the partnering schools.

Partnerships Make A Difference has demonstrated their capacity to serve and add velocity to this innovative approach to systemic change at Ridgemont by their involvement with more than 25,000 students across 25 schools that have engaged in more than 375 service-learning projects. Their partner schools in the "Growing Together" Service-Learning Network have completed more than 250,000 of civic engagement valued at \$5 million. They have a reputation for providing significant collaborations among schools and agencies at their annual "Critical Issues Summit", Youth Serve America Childhood Hunger Initiative, and "Power of Service Learning" Student Leadership Summit. Partnerships Make A Difference is led by individuals representing education, business, community agencies, and foundations who are passionate about engaging young people in authentic educational experiences and transforming the way we teach, learn, and serve!

Partnerships Make A Difference agrees to partner with the subsequent strategies to contribute to the success of the bold and innovative solutions to advance the goals of Ridgemont Local Schools:

- Create a school that will be used as a demonstration site for successful workforce development through service learning and Project Based Learning strategies
- Prepare staff to create innovative approaches to transform teaching by shifting instruction to a purpose driven curriculum tied to solving real world problems
- Conduct service-learning coaching to helping individual teachers in the district utilize service-learning in their classrooms
- Position Ridgemont Schools and Partnerships Make A Difference as true associates in innovation
- Serve as an authentic audience for project based and service learning projects
- Connect for virtual field trips to provide authentic experiences for youth
- Serve as a guest speaker, virtually with technology or live in person when possible
- Provide authentic content for real-world learning projects for teachers and students
- Enhance curricular connections through the collaboration with compatible partners that currently exist with Partnerships Make A Difference

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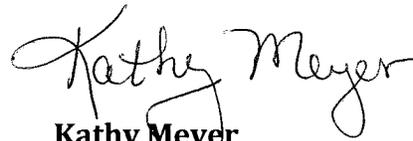
Ridgemont Local Schools agrees to reciprocate the succeeding strategies to provide a mutually beneficial partnership:

- Provide youth authentic opportunities to create skills to be prepared for the workforce
- Engage youth and staff in regular relations with curriculum areas that tie to cross curricular initiatives to workforce development
- Reform curriculum to ensure every youth engages in project based learning with a workforce connection that prepares youth for leadership roles, as well as career and college readiness
- Bring local and global workforce needs to the forefront of Ridgemont's educational initiatives
- Integrate real world connections into every classroom K-12
- Our school district will build students who have cultivated relationships with business and industry professionals prior to graduation
- Provide regular updates in workforce development strides made by students and staff
- Include partnership information and updates in newsletters, newspapers, school webpages, etc.
- Collaborate with Partnerships Make A Difference to conduct to demonstration model programming of true partners in innovation to transform schools for audiences at professional development for state and national conferences

Sincerely,



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