



College of Education,
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TO: Straight A Fund

FROM: Regina H. Sapona, PhD *Regina H. Sapona*
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To Whom It May Concern:

The importance of preparing high school seniors for their college experiences before they matriculate to an undergraduate program cannot be under estimated. Particularly for students who have neither engaged in online and blended learning, nor student research projects, the learning curve is steep and daunting. This grant will give southwest Ohio seniors both experiences within the exact environment they will encounter as college freshman and using the vast array of digital resources provided online for their study and research. At the University of Cincinnati nearly every undergraduate course has an online component and many of the basic Arts and Sciences survey courses are available entirely online. On campus students enjoy the flexibility of online courses, but soon learn that these courses require special orientation, research skills, and self-discipline.

I enthusiastically support this Straight A grant application prepared jointly by the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services and the Universities Libraries. The Faculty from both colleges are well prepared to author and deliver the two courses through their cooperative efforts in online course design, innovative pedagogy, and digital resources and research experience. We look forward to piloting this program and providing the testing and evaluation that will allow it to be generalized throughout the OBR and ODE statewide network of higher and PK-12 education.

