



March 31, 2014

Dr. Richard A. Ross
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Dear Dr. Ross:

The Hiram College - Center for Integrated Entrepreneurship has met with the leadership team within the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools (CFEVSD) to discuss and begin planning for the partnership of both agencies in the work described within the *“Chagrin Institute for Innovation, Collaboration, and Entrepreneurship”* project. Our organization is supportive of our collaboration and is excited about the possibilities which will seek to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of all K-12 students, including those students who will be served via 7-12 programming, new Dual Credit coursework, and increased K-12 summer opportunities. The provision of Dual Credit programming reflective of our Center for Integrated Entrepreneurship coursework will seek to not only encourage additional students to pursue college coursework prior to high school graduation, but also attract students to post-secondary study that will engage them in I.C.E. – related study.

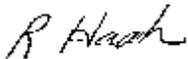
We are excited to serve as consultants in creating 7-12 Innovation, Collaboration, and Entrepreneurship (I.C.E.) programming and Dual Credit programming on the 7-12 CFEVSD Campus. We will also support the development of summer programming designed for students in grades K-6 that will serve as a springboard for 7-12 I.C.E. programming. We will collaborate with Dr. Jim Bader from the Leonard Gelfand STEM Center at Case Western Reserve University, as he consults on the renovation of two existing classrooms within the 7-12 CFEVSD campus to become labs that will be accessible to all 7-12 teachers and will support the new *Entrepreneurship* courses to be offered. Similarly, we will collaborate with the other non-profit partner organization, JumpStart, Inc., to design relevant projects, competitions, and contests as well as opportunities for our students to access additional support in growing their ideas into start-up opportunities in the Cleveland area.

The proposed *“Chagrin Institute for Innovation, Collaboration, and Entrepreneurship”* project fully aligns with the ideals rooted in our work at Hiram College. Our Center for Integrated Entrepreneurship integrates the concepts of entrepreneurship into the liberal arts through curricular and extra-curricular activities to help students develop skills such as critical thinking, curiosity, ethical awareness, ability to write and speak clearly, ability to draw and synthesize knowledge from diverse sources and apply to diverse uses, insight into the human experience, and a life-long love of learning. The proposed innovative project promises to not only provide increased learning opportunities that are framed in Real-world applications for K-12 students relative to Innovation, Collaboration, and Entrepreneurship, but will also provide additional learning resources for students interested in STEM-related research and project development. As described in the 2/27/13 edition of Ed Week, in an article entitled, *“Universities Create Ed. Entrepreneur Programs”* by Sean Cavanagh, “Efforts to promote an evolving area of study—entrepreneurship in education—are taking hold in graduate

schools across the country, as universities craft programs and courses focused on cultivating school leaders and private-sector developers capable of bringing new ideas, and possibly new products and technologies, to schools. University faculty members and administrators say the study of K-12 entrepreneurship and innovation has had a presence in the postsecondary world for years. But recently, interest in the subject has grown, and it has secured a much more clearly defined place in a number of colleges of education, business schools, and other academic departments.” This project with CFEVSD truly has the potential to further grow student readiness relative to entrepreneurship, regardless of each student’s interests, strengths, and post-secondary plans.

We are invested in supporting the work articulated within the “*Chagrin Institute for Innovation, Collaboration, and Entrepreneurship*” project and look forward to the possibility of partnering with the Chagrin Exempted Village Schools, Case Western Reserve University, and JumpStart, Inc. This project will undoubtedly increase student achievement and increase access for currently enrolled students to access PSEOP coursework and post-secondary study and/or careers which maximize their study in I.C.E. programming.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Haak".

Robert D. Haak, Ph.D.
Dean of the College