March 31, 2014

Robert Hunt, Superintendent
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
Chagrin Falls, OH

Dear Superintendent Hunt,

The Leonard Gelfand STEM Center at Case Western Reserve University has met with the leadership team within the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools 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 this collaboration and is excited about the possibilities that 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 and K-12 summer opportunities.

We are excited to serve as consultants in creating an Innovation, Collaboration, and Entrepreneurship (I.C.E.) Fabrication Lab on the 7-12 CFEVSD Campus. We will support the renovation of 2 existing classrooms within the 7-12 Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District campus to become labs that will be accessible to all 7-12 teachers and will house the new Entrepreneurship courses to be offered.

The Leonard Gelfand STEM Center will also provide a great deal of professional development to teachers throughout the 2014-15 school year. We will provide 4 full days of training for all 7-12 Math, Science, and Technology teachers on integrated use of the I.C.E. Fab Lab and its application to STEM-related learning and 1 full day of training to K-6 teachers and 1 full day of training for summer program teachers.

The 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. The Straight A Fund project proposed by the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District promises to prepare its students to be thinkers and creators.

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, Hiram College, and JumpStart, Inc. This project will undoubtedly increase student achievement and increase access for currently enrolled students to post-secondary study and/or careers that maximize their study in I.C.E. programming.

Sincerely,

James Bader, Executive Director
Leonard Gelfand STEM Center