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**EASTERN
GATEWAY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

November 9, 2015

Dear Straight A Grant Reviewer

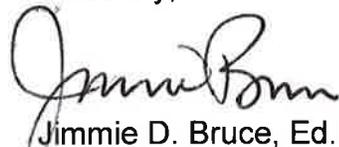
Please accept this letter of support and partnership for the Mahoning Valley STEM+ME2 Straight A Innovation Grant. Eastern Gateway Community College wholly supports the Mahoning County Educational Service Center and partnering districts' efforts to provide a seamless STEM curriculum for students in the Mahoning Valley.

EGCC has provided support throughout the process of establishing and applying for the Mahoning Valley STEM+ME2 Academy that will be partially funded through the grant. EGCC is committed to continued support of the school districts' efforts in preparing students for college and career readiness. Eastern Gateway understand the benefit of a seamless STEM curriculum that will provide an increase in possible candidates for the College of STEM as well as support local economic growth by providing a highly skilled workforce in advanced manufacturing.

EGCC has collaborated with Youngstown State University, The Mahoning Valley Manufacturers Coalition and the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center, which are partners in the grant application, to extend opportunities for training in the area of STEM/Advanced Manufacturing through the creation of a manufacturing training center that will be used primarily to train adults in the valley from one location that will house 21st century advanced manufacturing equipment. The creation of STEM+ME2 will provide a more comprehensive candidate pool available for the type of training provided by the partnering entities through the use of the manufacturing center.

Eastern Gateway would like to encourage the reviewers to strongly consider the benefits of the program that will be established with these grant funds and the value that will be provided to the growth of the local economy.

Sincerely,



Jimmie D. Bruce, Ed.D.
President