

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. Youngstown State University fully supports the MCEC and partnering districts' efforts to provide a seamless STEM curriculum for students in the Mahoning Valley. YSU, primarily through its STEM College, 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. YSU is committed to continuing support for the efforts of school districts that prepare students for college and career readiness. YSU realizes the benefit of a robust secondary school STEM curriculum, as that is an important element in maintaining robust enrollment in the technical programs housed in the College of STEM. Such a program will also support local economic growth by providing a highly skilled workforce in advanced manufacturing.

YSU has an ongoing collaboration with Eastern Gateway Community College, 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. Specifically, we are working together on the creation of an advanced manufacturing training center that will serve as a common location for educating students from all backgrounds. By joining together, we will be able to obtain and support the variety of 21st century advanced manufacturing equipment needed to develop a robust workforce to support economic growth. The creation of STEM+ME2 will provide an additional pathway taking advantage of the joint manufacturing center, providing one more educational pathway available through the partner organizations.

Youngstown State University 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,



James P. Tressel
President



Martin A. Abraham
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

