

111 Academy Dr.
Marietta, OH 45750
740-374-6500
twerry@mariettacsdo.org
bbccoord@gmail.com
buildingbridgestocareers.org



November 29, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Epicenter project facilitated by Building Bridges to Careers. I have been the Building Bridges to Careers Coordinator for the past two years and am very happy to lend my support to this project. After working with many students in a variety of ways, i.e. arranging job shadowing placements and scheduling various career exploration activities, it is time for us to expand our reach even further. The possibilities abound and I am excited to serve as the program developer and coordinator for the Epicenter. I see so many wonderful opportunities for the students and see it as a way for to work more closely with the students of our county. The signing on and support of all school districts in our county tells me this is the right time for such an innovative idea.

How do we grow the entrepreneurial spirit of the youth in our county? First we help them find their passion through career exploration. Then we offer them the support of the community to mentor them and guide them in their endeavors. Access to expertise and guidance can be the key to their success. We can help them discover the strengths and skills they have. Without a support system it's difficult for our students to make viable career choices.

I recently had a student talk to me about a business idea they had and I referred them to our Small Business Development Center (SBDC). The Epicenter would directly connect this student to the SBDC, as well as to other development resources. The wealth of ideas and encouragement from the students themselves will be astounding along with seasoned entrepreneurs to offer even more in-depth support. In order for these organic moments to happen, we need a central place for them to occur. A place to experience success and a place to teach students that mistakes do not mean failure. It means there is something to be gained by learning from that experience and putting that knowledge to use the next time they are faced with a problem, idea, or situation.

I see Building Bridges to Careers expanding into internships along with the job shadowing programs that are in place. We stress networking with Building Bridges to Careers and this is a perfect opportunity for students to see networking in action. Businesses are already excited to have a space to grow their business and work with students.

The Epicenter will provide a centralized location for accessing Career Development Facilitator services. We can design whole career development programs and have the resources to carry them out with the support of Epicenter partners. Real world interaction is what the students

Successful Students, Prosperous Communities

111 Academy Dr.
Marietta, OH 45750
740-374-6500
twerry@mariettacsdo.org
bbccoord@gmail.com
buildingbridgestocareers.org



need. They can learn from the trials and successes of business people and entrepreneurs in our community.

We need someone to help run the facility and keep activities organized. Due to my work with students, schools, and businesses I can easily step into that role and expand on the activities we are already doing with these entities. As the Building Bridges to Careers Coordinator I will lend my support and expertise however I can to ensure this project's success.

Sincerely,

Tonya Davis

Tonya Davis
BBC Coordinator