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November 20, 2015

Ms. Tasha Wherry
Building Bridges to Careers
Director of Career Resources and Outreach
Marietta City Schools
Marietta OH 45750

Dear Ms. Wherry:

The Southeastern Ohio Port Authority is the primary economic development organization for Washington County, Ohio.

One of the major concerns for business and industry in Washington County and the surrounding areas is the development of a skilled workforce. Without a skilled workforce, we are unable to staff existing businesses and industries, let alone attract new industries to our area.

An important local program, Building Bridges to Careers is a valuable program that exposes students to various careers and occupations and encourages the development of skills necessary to become a vital part of the needed workforce.

The development of the Epicenter Project as proposed by the Building Bridges to Careers Program will further enhance Building Bridges to Careers impact on our future workforce. The Epicenter Project will create a location where students can experience firsthand the satisfaction of seeing the results from utilization of learned skills while at the same time being afforded the opportunity to work with skilled professionals.

The Southeastern Ohio Port Authority is proud to support this cutting edge program. As the lead economic development agency for Washington County, we are here to assist --whether as a conduit for funding or as a facilitator for additional support in order to see this beneficial program move forward.

Sincerely,



James M. Black
Executive Director