



Center for Innovative Food Technology

5555 Airport Highway, Suite 100 • Toledo, Ohio 43615-7320

November 25, 2015

Alex Fischer  
Chairperson  
Straight A Fund Governing Board  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Mr. Fischer:

CIFT is a non-profit organization placing emphasis on business enhancement and technology acceleration within the food and agricultural industry. In addition, CIFT is the regional affiliate representing the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program and assists companies with supply chain development, sustainability, continuous improvement, technology acceleration, and work force training. We are pleased that the Ohio Department of Education has launched a creative program that can create partnerships between education and private business called the Straight A Fund.

In today's labor market, it is imperative that businesses and educational institutions partner to enhance the education of young students and provide them with skills that will remain in high-demand during their professional careers and that are transferable. Collaborations with regional community colleges, career centers, and academic programs continue to deliver programs which impact the future work force but benefit engagement of businesses.

CIFT and the northwest Ohio MEP supports the efforts that will be put forth in this grant opportunity and is supportive of efforts to enhance the skills of students across the state as it relates to providing them with knowledge and experiences that will enhance their workplace skills and productivity.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Singer  
Vice President and Director of Agricultural Programs

