SAUDER®

November 24, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Fischer,

This letter is in support of the Ohio Department of Education's Straight A Fund grant. This collaboration between education and private business is essential to the future of Northwest Ohio.

Over the past year, Sauder has supported our local imitative of High School Manufacturing days in conjunction with our local economic development groups, high schools and Northwest State Community College. We have started the groundwork to notify our local students of the many opportunities Sauder has to offer. We have participated in mock interview days, job fairs and college and career fairs. Our goal is to inform the students of the many opportunities available to them. We have also created our own Manufacturing Days by hosting local schools to spend a day touring our facilities and learning about manufacturing. We have spent time recruiting in lunch rooms as well as presenting interview tips and soft skills presentations.

However, these efforts are not enough. We are experiencing a very low unemployment rate in our area and are struggling to find employees. We would like to access the 10,000 students in Fulton County to give them the unique opportunity to receive hands-on education opportunities within our facility. The students would have the opportunity to participate in an apprenticeship at Sauder while continuing their high school education through the Straight A Fund program.

We are very excited to partner with our local Fulton County schools: Archbold, Delta, Evergreen, Fayette, Pettisville, Swanton and Wauseon. Sauder supports the efforts that will be put forth in this grant opportunity and looks forward to our involvement in the process.

Sincerely,

Marc Fruth
Executive Vice-President, Human Resources and Consumer Services

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