



November 25, 2015

Dear Straight A Fund Selection Committee,

Please accept this letter as a show of formal support for Portage Lakes Career Center's pursuit of an Emergency Services Hub with the aid of a Straight A Grant.

Throughout Northeast Ohio, most career and technical students graduate from high school with the ability to have college credit through The University of Akron and these students typically enter the workforce upon graduation to assist with their college expenses. With the development of the Emergency Services Hub at Portage Lakes Career Center, students pursuing an Emergency Services career pathway will be able to earn even more college credit (potentially the completion of an associate degree), more industry approved certifications and first hand exposure to real life situations while still in high school and without leaving the Portage Lakes Career Center campus.

The University of Akron's College of Applied Science and Technology will support Portage Lakes Career Center's Emergency Services Hub through participating in the implementation of facilities, developing stronger articulation agreements, providing college courses in the Emergency Services fields onsite, and through onsite technical and educational support.

In Summit County, there is a strong need for an Emergency Services Hub. Given the close proximity to world renowned medical facilities and other providers of emergency services, the need for a highly skilled labor pool is crucial and that need extends well beyond Summit County to Northeast Ohio and the State of Ohio.

It is with great enthusiasm that we pursue and support this partnership and I look forward to discussing this letter of support should you request additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Rickel", is written over a white background.

Dr. Todd A. Rickel
Vice Provost and Executive Dean, CAST

College of Applied Science and Technology

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