Wayne Economic Development Council

WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

November 18, 2015

Straight A Fund
Grant Review Committee Members

The Wayne County Economic Development Council (WEDC) strongly supports and commits to partnering with the Tri-County Educational Services Center in their Straight A Grant proposal to establish a Tri-County Career Connections Collaborative. The collaborative will jumpstart the state mandated Career Connections Program in area schools and sustain the program through a shared services model.

The WEDC's Workforce Innovations Network (WIN) dovetails with the Career Connections Collaborative initiative. The WIN strives to create a seamless path to entering the workforce through a joint effort involving area K-12 and post-secondary educational institutions and workforce service providers.

Partners within the Workforce Innovations Network include public school systems, the Wayne County Schools Career Center, Ohio State ATI, Wayne College, the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Rittman Area Chamber of Commerce, the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce, the Common Good, Ohio Means Jobs-Wayne County, and private employers.

The WIN provides career and occupational information, K-16 education programs and adult education partnerships. It serves as a conduit for exchanging information, identifying resources, and sharing best practices in workforce development. The desired outcomes of the WIN are to:

- Identify regional workforce skill and competency needs
- Articulate emerging skills and competencies needed in targeted industry sectors
- Create and recommend solutions to close workforce skills gaps
- Establish measures and methods of evaluation to demonstrate value and outcomes of work

The WEDC and WIN look forward to partnering with the Tri-County Educational Service Center in implementing the Career Connections programming which will impact nearly 6,000 students in grades 9-12 from the tri-county area (Ashland, Wayne, Holmes).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rodney A. Crider, President
Wayne Economic Development Council (WEDC)
542 E. Liberty St.
Wooster, OH 44691