



October 15, 2023

To: Dr. Cassie B. Barlow
Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE)
2750B Indian Ripple Rd
Dayton Ohio 45440

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter to show Technology First fully supports the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education Public Development & Advocacy Committee application to the Dayton Development Coalition. Your project, ***Bridging Abilities***, will provide immense value to the Dayton Region by providing career opportunities for High School and College students with disabilities.

With the Dayton Region having a robust need in building pathways for ten in-demand industries, we understand that SOCHE is uniquely positioned to aid in the development of students to serve in these industries. SOCHE houses several workforce development functions that support the region in multiple in-demand industries to include Manufacturing, Aerospace, Information Technology, Logistics and Transportation, Energy, Military and Federal.

Through four decades of partnership, SOCHE has accumulated vast experience and established collaborative relationships to provide interns in support of the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) as well as many companies across the Miami Valley. Every year, SOCHE hosts hundreds of college students through these internships. Recently, SOCHE has added interns for students with disabilities with the goal of closing the unemployment gap for people with disabilities across in-demand occupations. The Aerospace Professional Development Center (APDC) was created to assist in addressing our state-wide workforce needs within the Aerospace and Defense sector. In addition, DAGSI (Defense Associated Graduate Student Innovators) has been contributing to Air Force research priorities since the early 1990s, funding graduate students and their faculty advisors across Ohio. DAGSI works very closely with the Air Force Research Laboratory to identify graduate level projects for State and AFRL funding. Because of the DAGSI programming, over 70% of funded students remain in Ohio.

*We appreciate your efforts to provide strong regional collaboration through this effort. Additionally, your initial and planned work with industry representatives promotes continued collaboration for the region and ensures that **Bridging Abilities** will be current, effective, and focused for success.*

We fully support and endorse the Public Development & Advocacy Committee application to help fund this collaborative effort to ensure that our workforce will remain strong and provide growth opportunities for our businesses and families. Please consider us as one of your partners, and keep us informed as the project progresses so we may lend any assistance necessary for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Cutcher".

Melissa Cutcher | Executive Director | 937.272.4072
TechnologyFirst.org | 1435 Cincinnati Street, Suite 300, Dayton, OH 45417
Connect | Strengthen | Champion



Kevin Spriggs
TAC Industries
2160 Old Selma Road
Springfield, Ohio

October 15, 2023

To: Dr. Cassie B. Barlow
Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE)
2750B Indian Ripple Rd
Dayton Ohio 45440

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter to show TAC Industries fully supports the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education Public Development & Advocacy Committee application to the Dayton Development Coalition. Your project, **Bridging Abilities**, will provide immense value to the Dayton Region by providing career opportunities for High School and College students with disabilities.

With the Dayton Region having a robust need in building pathways for ten in-demand industries, we understand that SOCHE is uniquely positioned to aid in the development of students to serve in these industries. SOCHE houses several workforce development functions that support the region in multiple in-demand industries to include Manufacturing, Aerospace, Information Technology, Logistics and Transportation, Energy, Military and Federal.

Through four decades of partnership, SOCHE has accumulated vast experience and established collaborative relationships to provide interns in support of the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) as well as many companies across the Miami Valley. Every year, SOCHE hosts hundreds of college students through these internships. Recently, SOCHE has added interns for students with disabilities with the goal of closing the unemployment gap for people with disabilities across in-demand occupations. The Aerospace Professional Development Center (APDC) was created to assist in addressing our state-wide workforce needs within the Aerospace and Defense sector. In addition, DAGSI (Defense Associated Graduate Student Innovators) has been contributing to Air Force research priorities since the early 1990s, funding graduate students and their faculty advisors across Ohio. DAGSI works very closely with the Air Force Research Laboratory to identify graduate level projects for State and AFRL funding. Because of the DAGSI programming, over 70% of funded students remain in Ohio.

*We appreciate your efforts to provide strong regional collaboration through this effort. Additionally, your initial and planned work with industry representatives promotes continued collaboration for the region and ensures that **Bridging Abilities** will be current, effective, and focused for success.*

We fully support and endorse the Public Development & Advocacy Committee application to help fund this collaborative effort to ensure that our workforce will remain strong and provide growth opportunities for our businesses and families. Please consider us as one of your partners, and keep us informed as the project progresses so we may lend any assistance necessary for success.

Sincerely,

Kevin Spriggs
Director of Human Services

October 16, 2023

Dr. Cassie B. Barlow
Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE)
2750B Indian Ripple Road
Dayton Ohio 45440

Dear Dr. Barlow:

On behalf of the Dayton Region Manufacturers Association (DRMA), I am writing to express our strong support for the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education's Public Development & Advocacy Committee application to the Dayton Development Coalition. Your project, **Bridging Abilities**, will provide immense value to the Dayton Region by providing career opportunities for high school and college students with disabilities.

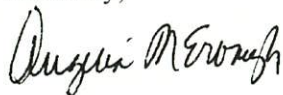
With the Dayton Region having a critical need in building pathways for 10 in-demand industries, SOCHE is uniquely positioned to aid in the development of students to serve in these industries. SOCHE houses several workforce development functions that support the region in multiple in-demand industries including manufacturing.

Through four decades of partnership, SOCHE has accumulated vast experience and established collaborative relationships to provide interns in support of the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) as well as many companies across the Miami Valley. Every year, SOCHE hosts hundreds of college students through these internships. Recently, SOCHE has added interns for students with disabilities with the goal of closing the unemployment gap for people with disabilities across in-demand occupations. The Aerospace Professional Development Center (APDC) was created to assist in addressing our state-wide workforce needs within the Aerospace and Defense sector. In addition, DAGSI (Defense Associated Graduate Student Innovators) has been contributing to Air Force research priorities since the early 1990s, funding graduate students and their faculty advisors across Ohio. DAGSI works very closely with the Air Force Research Laboratory to identify graduate level projects for State and AFRL funding. Because of the DAGSI programming, over 70% of funded students remain in Ohio.

We appreciate your efforts to provide strong regional collaboration through this effort. Additionally, your initial and planned work with industry representatives promotes continued collaboration for the region and ensures that **Bridging Abilities** will be current, effective, and focused on success.

We fully endorse the PDAC application to help fund this collaborative effort to ensure that our workforce will remain strong and provide growth opportunities for our businesses and families.

Sincerely,



Angelia M. Erbaugh
President



Springfield | Beavercreek | Bellefontaine | Xenia

17 October 2023

Dr. Cassie B. Barlow
Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education
2750B Indian Ripple Road
Dayton, OH 45440

Dear Dr. Barlow:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter to show (Your organization) fully supports the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) Public Development and Advocacy Committee application to the Dayton Development Coalition. Your project, ***Bridging Abilities***, will provide immense value to the Dayton Region by providing career opportunities for High School and College students with disabilities.

With the Dayton Region having a robust need in building pathways for ten in-demand industries, we understand that SOCHE is uniquely positioned to aid in the development of students to serve in these industries. SOCHE houses several workforce development functions that support the region in multiple in-demand industries to include Manufacturing, Aerospace, Information Technology, Logistics and Transportation, Energy, Military and Federal.

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We fully support and endorse the Public Development and Advocacy Committee application to help fund this collaborative effort to ensure that our workforce will remain strong and provide growth opportunities for our businesses and families. Please consider us as one of your partners, and keep us informed as the project progresses so we may lend any assistance necessary for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jo Alice Blondin".

Jo Alice Blondin, Ph.D.
President

Shannon M. Cox
Superintendent

To: Dr. Cassie B. Barlow
Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE)
2750B Indian Ripple Rd
Dayton Ohio 45440

I write this letter to show MCECSC fully supports the SOCHE's Public Development & Advocacy Committee application to the Dayton Development Coalition. Your project, Bridging Abilities, will provide immense value to the Dayton Region by providing career opportunities for High School and College students with disabilities.

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Sincerely,



Shannon M. Cox
Superintendent
Montgomery County Education Service Center