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Urban Renewal Agency Board
City of Salem
555 Liberty St. SE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Urban Renewal Agency Board:

Salem-Keizer Public Schools confirms our support for the \$400,000 Urban Renewal funding request for the Salem-Keizer Career Technical Education Center (CTEC). We are grateful for the City of Salem's significant support for our innovative public-private partnership and fully support the use of additional Urban Renewal dollars for CTEC because of its immense community benefit. This capstone support will help us build out Phase 5—the final two of ten Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at CTEC—benefitting an additional 200 students each year.

CTEC is built upon an incredible vision to transform a blighted 150,000 square-foot former manufacturing facility in the North Gateway Urban Renewal Area into a bustling Career Technical Education Center serving 1,000 Salem-Keizer high school students with ten different Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. As an innovative public-private partnership between Salem-Keizer Public Schools and Mountain West Investment Corporation, CTEC's mission is to prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand careers while developing the professional skills, technical knowledge, academic foundation, and real-world experience to ensure their success upon graduation.

The diverse demographics in Salem-Keizer point to a large youth population that has high-risk factors for dropping out of school or being unable to transition successfully to the labor force and/or post-secondary education. While at the same time, area industries are challenged to find a skilled workforce. CTEC provides an innovative, solution-oriented response that is full of hope for the future.

Currently 600 students are enrolled for the 2018-19 school year in eight CTEC programs—Residential Construction; Manufacturing, Welding and Engineering; Cosmetology; Video and Game Design Animation; Autobody Repair and Painting; Drone Technology and Robotics; Law Enforcement; and Business Development and Leadership. CTEC is designed so that students remain enrolled at their resident school, spending 2.5 days each week there and 2.5 days at CTEC. Students earn high school credit that applies to graduation, but they can also earn dual college credit that gives them a head start upon entering college.

Our Phase 5 programs—Agriscience and Culinary Arts Management—will open in September 2019. When CTEC is fully built out by 2019-20, it will serve approximately 1,000 11th and 12th grade students annually through ten CTE programs. CTEC will create 60 new jobs in the North Gateway Urban Renewal Area and bring thousands of people each day to the Portland Road corridor, positively impacting economic development goals for the area.

In February 2017, the Oregon Department of Education released an Oregon CTE graduation report identifying that 88% of secondary CTE concentrators graduated in 2015—nearly 14 percentage points higher than the state average. Salem-Keizer was one of 16 districts highlighted in the report, with 28% of our students identified as CTE concentrators, and an overall CTE graduation rate of 91% compared to the now 73% district average. *The graduation rate at CTEC was even higher – 98% over the past three years.*

From exit surveys and anecdotal stories that we hear daily from students and industry, we know that CTEC is having a significant impact in its first three years of operation.

Key CTEC impacts to date include:

- 98% graduation rate in 2018
- Multiple awards for CTEC students at Skills USA and First Robotics national competitions
- All CTEC students connected to jobs, apprenticeships, trade schools, college (two or four-year), or military post-graduation—our goal is 100% positive placement

We have engaged an outside consultant to develop a comprehensive evaluation plan for CTEC that includes surveys and interviews with students, parents, and faculty, as well as reaching alumni at the 1, 2, 5, and 10 year marks to determine the impact CTEC had on their career and college pathways, as well as its impact on workforce development for our region.

We are committed to working together with Mountain West until all phases of the project are complete, CTEC is fully built out, and ten CTE programs are operational. It is a grand vision for CTE in Salem-Keizer, but one we know is critical to providing a positive future for our students and strengthening workforce development and the economy in our region.

Please contact me if you have any questions about CTEC, the Urban Renewal funding request, or our role in the project.

Sincerely,



Christy Perry
Superintendent