August 10, 2015

Ms. Kristin Hines
Director of Charter Schools
Office of Education Innovation
Office of Mayor Greg Ballard
City of Indianapolis

Dear Ms. Hines:

The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) and its member companies are pleased to support the Purdue Polytechnic Indianapolis High School’s request for a charter from the Indianapolis Mayor’s Office. Supporting this school fits squarely within IMA’s focus on workforce development to enhance the ability of Indiana’s manufacturers to compete effectively and profitably in a local, national and global economy.

The success of our region, our students and our industry heavily depends on how well we’ve prepared talent to succeed in the 21st-Century economy. We have great potential to build this talent pipeline and reach future workers now as they progress through high school and prepare for post-secondary education and the workforce.

The Purdue Polytechnic Indianapolis High School provides an answer, targeting IPS students who have STEM capabilities but may not have the opportunities to excel. The school focuses on learning-by-doing and will graduate students who have deep knowledge, applied skills, and experiences in STEM fields. These students will be ready to work in high-demand, high-paying jobs that will fuel our businesses and our economy.

This is an exciting learning opportunity that finds its strength in industry participation and collaboration. The IMA is pleased to be one of those partners. We realize the cornerstone to this charter school’s success is industry partnership. The IMA and its member companies are committed to working with Purdue and its organizing partners, EmployIndy and USA Funds, as they continue development activities toward an August 2017 opening. Some of the partnership opportunities our member companies are exploring include:

- Participating in an industry advisory board to help develop the academic model and define and refine the competencies students must master to succeed in the 21st Century economy.
- Hosting internships to provide hands-on experience so students will get an early glimpse into career opportunities and master concepts they learn in the classroom.
- Serving as mentors to help students decide their field of study and understand the opportunities and challenges ahead. As mentors, we will support the student’s transition from high school to post-secondary education or the workforce.

Please accept this letter of support for the Purdue Polytechnic Indianapolis High School. We look forward to a meaningful partnership with Purdue and the community to deliver this innovative learning model to Indianapolis students.

Sincerely,

Brian Burton
President and CEO

Indiana’s Leading Advocate for Industry