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:

Conexus Indiana and its Board of Directors is 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 Conexus Indiana’s focus on workforce development to explore new opportunities to grow Indiana’s advanced manufacturing and logistics (AML) industries and create an emerging pool of skilled STEM workers.

The success of our region, our students and our businesses 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. We’re pleased to be one of those partners. Our innovative Conexus Interns program immerses high school students in a manufacturing or logistics environment where they serve as employees of a local AML company. Similar to the mission of the Purdue Polytechnic High Indianapolis School, Conexus Interns serves as a bridge to help students prepare for opportunities post graduation and seamless transition into the workforce.

We realize the cornerstone to this charter school’s success is industry partnership. Conexus Indiana and its member companies plan to be at the table as Purdue develops curricula with industry input and builds in hands-on learning opportunities through in-the-field working experience. We are committed to working with Purdue and its organizing partners, EmployIndy and USA Funds, as they continue development activities toward an August 2017 opening.

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,

Steven F. Dwyer
President and CEO
Conexus Indiana

111 Monument Circle; Suite 1800 • Indianapolis, IN 46204 • 317-638-2107