



FRANKLIN EDUCATION CONNECTION

Education Foundation · Study Connection

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Andy Kinsey, President
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Community Member

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First National Bank

August 4, 2014

Economic Development Commission
City of Franklin
70 E. Monroe Street
P.O. Box 280
Franklin, IN 46131

Members

Robin Betts
Franklin Community Schools

Deb Brown-Nally
Franklin Community Schools

Casey DeArmitt
Johnson Memorial Hospital

Tina Gross
Ivy Tech Community College

Mark Heiden
Creekside Elementary

Carla Herron
Northwood Elementary

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Cross Financial

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Franklin Community Schools

Greg Moore
Sylvan Learning Center

Denise Ott
Keller Williams Real Estate

Kristi Ott
Franklin Community Schools Board

Chris Purcell
The Daily Journal

Ryan Waggoner
Ice Miller

Katie Wehner
Franklin College

Dear EDC Members:

This letter serves as a request for \$5,000 for Franklin Education Connection from the Economic Development Fee fund.

Franklin Education Connection was formed in September, 2013 when Study Connection and the Franklin Community Schools Education Foundation joined forces to better serve the community. Franklin Education Connection (legal name Community Involvement in Learning, Inc.) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Study Connection, operating since 2005, is a homework/mentoring program which matches adult Study Buddies with students in grades 2-6 who have been identified by school staff as needing assistance in reaching academic and social standards. In the 2013-14 school year, a record 103 Study Buddies provided more than 3,000 hours of volunteer help and support.

The Education Foundation, established in 2010, provides grants to teachers to enhance students' academic experience. Since 2011, the Education Foundation has awarded more than \$34,000 in grants to 29 programs at schools at all grade levels. The Education Foundation has also raised more than \$13,000 to establish Destination Imagination (DI) teams at the elementary and intermediate levels. DI encourages teams of students to use STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) along with fine arts and service learning to solve problems. Teams compete in regional, state and global competitions.

In May of this year, a DI team from Creekside Elementary progressed through their competitions and qualified for Globals (Knoxville, TN) where they competed against 92 teams from around the world. They finished tied for 46th.

Mission Statement: Our mission is to connect Franklin Community Schools to community resources to enhance academic excellence and instill a lifelong love of learning.

Staff

Bea Northcott
Director of Development

Melissa Parramore
Director, Study Connection

P.O. Box 903 • Franklin, IN 46131 • (317)738-5800

www.franklineducationconnection.org

Current Board of Directors: Board members are listed on the previous page.

Annual operating budget summarized by category: Our annual operating budget is \$65,650. Study Connection Program expenses are budgeted at \$22,550. Education Foundation Program expenses are budgeted at \$17,275. The remaining budgeted amount of \$25,825 covers administrative costs such as insurance, accounting fees, membership fees, public relations and marketing, and contract staff fees.

Description of how funds would be used and for what/Amount of funds requested and a prioritized detailed project budget: We are requesting \$5,000.

The cost of providing Study Connection to one child for the entire school year is \$225. \$2,644 of this grant would be used to provide Study Connection to approximately 12 children.

Education Foundation grants range from \$300 to \$3,000 with the average being \$1,178. \$2,356 would be allocated to providing approximately two grants in the 2014-15 school year.

As you are keenly aware, Franklin Community Schools loses approximately \$1.5 million per year due to Tax Increment Financing Districts and an additional \$2 million per year due to property tax caps. Plus, the school corporation also loses taxes due to abatements.

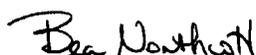
The quality of Franklin's school system is a significant factor in attracting new businesses. Companies are looking for an educated workforce and schools which are preparing their students for 21st century jobs. Franklin Education Connection works closely with the school corporation to identify academic programs which are moving us from good to great.

Quality schools also attract the employees of these companies. Franklin Education Connection's goal is to convince these workers that their children will receive a quality education that will prepare them to be career and/or college ready. We want people who work in Franklin to live here and add to our vibrant community, and I believe that is your goal as well. Your assistance in achieving our mutual goals would be greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the Commission's August 12th meeting due to a previously scheduled, standing FEC Executive Committee meeting. However, if you have any questions in advance, I would be happy to answer them.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Franklin Education Connection, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bea Northcott
Director of Development