

May 17, 2023

Dear Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Cirino, and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my gratitude to the 134th General Assembly which allocated \$3 million to the Ohio STEM Learning Network as a part of HB 110. This investment has allowed the network to expand its investment in STEM education in Ohio, preparing the skilled workforce of tomorrow. STEM education is an approach to education that develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills in students while preparing them for careers in science, engineering, technology, and mathematics.

The Ohio STEM Learning Network, a public-private partnership between Battelle and the Ohio Department of Education, has executed a three-part strategy aimed at ensuring every Ohio community has access to a quality STEM education to drive Ohio's economic future. The strategy aims to advance STEM for all, support tailored community needs, and strengthen model STEM schools. In its first year of expanded programming, the network impacted students from 319 Ohio schools. As work has continued into the second year of funding, the network has now reached 84 of Ohio's 88 counties with STEM education.

I urge you to maintain the state's investment of \$3 million in this critical initiative as proposed in the administration's 2024-2025 state budget. The network's three-part strategy has demonstrated tangible results in advancing STEM for all. By investing in this program, Ohio is positioned to be a leader in STEM education and workforce development, ensuring a bright economic future for our state. With continued support, the Ohio STEM Learning Network can reach even more students, educators, and communities, fostering innovation and growth throughout Ohio.

Thank you for your support of STEM education in Ohio. The investment has built a stronger foundation for the Ohio STEM Learning Network. A network that connects educators and schools with universities, businesses, and industries across Ohio. Through this networked approach, organizations are sharing best practices and learning from one another to ensure our Ohio students are prepared to be the future STEM workforce. This investment has allowed the Ohio STEM Learning Network to build opportunities for mentorship among schools, to expand STEM learning programs for educators, and create specific supports designed to expand STEM in rural areas. We look forward to continuing our efforts to ensure that every Ohio community has access to a quality STEM education.

Sincerely,



Kelly Gaier Evans

Director, Ohio STEM Learning Network

A public-private partnership of:

