

# COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 28, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Ohio General Assembly  
Ohio Statehouse  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Members of the Ohio State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed budget amendment that would support Future Ready Five (FR5) with a \$2 million investment. As President of Columbus State Community College, I know firsthand how strategic investments in workforce development and educational programming can transform lives, strengthen our economy and create long-term opportunities for Ohio families.

Future Ready Five's innovative approach connects deeply with our state's broader workforce goals. Consider that:

- 65% of Ohio's children are not ready for kindergarten.
- 90% of the human brain is developed by the age of 5.

Children who are not ready for kindergarten are much more likely to drop out of high school – without the workforce skills needed to grow Ohio's economy. That's why Future Ready Five's innovative and proven early childhood programs are so vital. Funding for FR5's Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative is an investment in Ohio's future workforce and economic prosperity.

I strongly encourage your approval of this budget amendment, which will allow Future Ready Five to expand its reach and impact at a time when it is needed most.

Thank you for your continued support of educational access, workforce preparedness and economic prosperity in Ohio.

Sincerely,



David T. Harrison  
President

Office of the President