



The OHIO ACADEMY of SCIENCE



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“Believe in Ohio”

Testimony by
Mr. John Klipfell
Executive Director - Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio
Co-Director – Believe in Ohio Program

Requesting support of an amendment to be added to the Omnibus budget bill
for the

**Youth STEM Commercialization
and Entrepreneurship Program**
(Popularly known as the Believe in Ohio Program)

\$5 million for the 2016-2017 Budget
(\$2.5 million in each year)
within the budget of the
Ohio Department of Higher Education

Advance copy, June 9, 2015, for delivery
Wednesday, June 10, 2015

The Ohio Senate Finance Committee

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Coley, Ranking Member Skindell, members of the committee.

My name is John Klipfell. I am Co-Director of the **Believe in Ohio** Program, which is a program of the Ohio Academy of Science that was collaboratively developed with Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio with funding from the 130th General Assembly through the Ohio Board of Regents. I am here to ask you to support an amendment to be added to the Omnibus Budget bill that will continue funding of the **Believe in Ohio** program during the 2016-2017 biennium at the same budget level as was funded by the 130th General Assembly, i.e. \$5 million for the biennium, \$2.5 million in each year.

Believe in Ohio is *the only statewide* Ohio high school student education program that integrates STEM and entrepreneurship to develop Ohio's next generation of innovators. It was developed during the past year and implements recommendations from the Board of Regents' 2012 Commercialization Task force. The program was developed to reach **any** high school student in Ohio.

This past year, 2,750 students at 83 high schools from 41 Counties participated in STEM Commercialization and Business Plan competitions through **Believe in Ohio**. Nearly \$1 million in cash awards for education and scholarships to Ohio colleges and universities was awarded to high school students! Students with innovative ideas were rewarded with scholarship monies, which for many, provided hope for a bright future. **Believe in Ohio** is poised for expansion across Ohio over the next two years. We desperately need your support to help to continue to inspire our young innovators. As testimonials to its early success, I offer two examples:

- **Believe in Ohio** is a key part of the Young Entrepreneurs Consortium \$13.6 million Straight A Grant whose goal is to increase the flow of young entrepreneurs in our state in order to eliminate brain drain and to grow vibrant local economies. As reported by Consortium manager, Barb Cockroft, this program alone includes 15 school districts from 12 counties stretching from Stark County to Marietta and includes nearly 27,000 students. This year students from the consortium received \$57,000 in awards through **Believe in Ohio**.
- In Strongsville, with the collaboration of the community, 400 students and 20 teachers participated in the program. As Strongsville science teacher Andy Bruening remarks: "This is it. This is the solution to standardized tests. This is what we need to have more of. This is experiential learning. This is the best thing I have seen in my ten years of teaching".

I ask you to join over 5000 students, teachers and other stakeholders whose lives have been impacted by **Believe in Ohio** during the past year. Knowing that growing local economies by investing in young entrepreneurs is a goal for our Governor and our state, **Believe in Ohio** will only continue to encourage student aspiration and to provide hope for our students' futures. Won't you please **Believe in Ohio** by continuing its current funding?

Please review the written testimony provided that includes a history of the program, a discussion of its accomplishments, and comments from teachers, students and parents whose lives have been impacted by **Believe in Ohio**. I am happy to answer any questions.



BELIEVE IN OHIO



ANDREA HARPEN
*Science Teacher at
Blanchester HS*

"I think that the Believe in Ohio program is a fantastic program and that it is dead on. I feel that this program more than anything else, has really benefited my students and gets at the core of what we are targeting as we try to improve science education. ... I think it is so much better than testing, testing, testing."



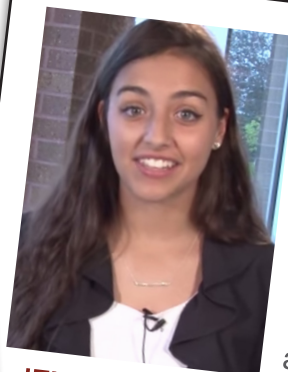
ANDY BRUENING
*Science Teacher at
Strongsville HS*

"This is it. This is the solution to standardized tests and is what we need to have more of. It is experiential learning and is kids finding their own way in Ohio. This is going to help Ohio. I became a science educator to help the Ohio science community and I think this is the best thing I have seen in my ten years of teaching."



NANCY MILLER
*Science Teacher at
Canton South HS*

"All of my students benefited. Some of my children who are the lowest excelling in class, excelled in this program. It gives them an opportunity to take what they know and build on it, rather than be chopped down for the things that they don't know."



JENNA ZUZOLO
*Student at
Tippecanoe HS*

"The Believe in Ohio program is a great opportunity for students to really invest themselves into trying to solve a problem that deals with them personally in their life. I definitely think I benefited from this. It was an amazing experience and I learned so much."

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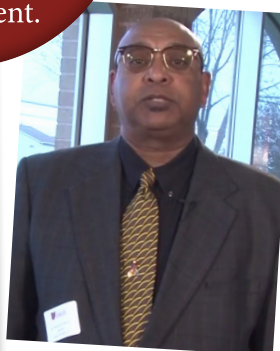
Believe in Ohio is a program from The Ohio Academy of Science that helps students prepare for the future and encourages them to become the STEM innovators and entrepreneurs Ohio will need to enhance and maintain its prosperity. The program was developed in collaboration with Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio with the support of the Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio General Assembly.

The Believe in Ohio program is the only statewide Ohio student education program to integrate entrepreneurship and innovation as pathways to create future jobs. The program was developed to be able to reach any high school in Ohio with a special emphasis on the underserved.



KEENAN FRAYLICK
Student from Tri-Village HS

"It makes me think that I am an adult and not a student anymore, like I'm in the workforce and I'm presenting my ideas to investors. It makes me feel like I'm getting prepared for life in the long term."



STEPHEN LEWIS, SR.
Business Teacher at Upper Arlington HS

"It provides an opportunity for our students to engage in business. I think that it gives them a real good perspective of real world business preparation."



MELISSA NEMETH
Parent of a student at Strongsville HS

"It gets the students out of the text books and into the real world, into the business world, into the "thinking out of the box" world and that's what corporations are looking for."

BELIEVE IN OHIO'S TOP 10 FIRST YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 10** Nearly **2,000 high school students**, teachers and others attended one of eight Believe in Ohio STEM Forums throughout Ohio.
- 9** A video gallery of presentations from **50 of Ohio's leading STEM researchers & practitioners** was developed to introduce students to the cutting edge R & D taking place in Ohio.
- 8** Six regional "Introduction to the Innovation Economy of Ohio" online courses were developed, each with **100-140 videos** to introduce students to Ohio's Innovation Economy.
- 7** **400+ teachers** attended **56 professional development workshops** to learn about the program.
- 6** An **Urban STEM Mentor Network** based on the "Each One, Teach One" concept is under development as part of Believe in Ohio's "Inclusive Competitiveness" commitment to empower underrepresented Ohioans.
- 5** **2,750 students** at **83 high schools** from **41 counties** participated in the Believe in Ohio's STEM Commercialization Plan or STEM Business Plan programs and competitions.
- 4** **591 students** earned the right to participate in Believe in Ohio's regional STEM Plan competition.
- 3** **183 students** from **44 high schools** participated in Believe in Ohio's statewide competition on April 25, 2015.
- 2** More than **700 Ohio professionals**, researchers and others served as competition judges across the state.
- 1** **NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN CASH AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO OHIO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WERE AWARDED TO OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.**



BRENDAN DAUGHERTY
Student at Blanchester HS

"Science isn't just sitting in a classroom and listening to a teacher talking about chemicals and all that. It's actually getting in there and doing the research and looking into what you are really passionate about. I know so many things that I didn't know before this."



DR. DEANNE NOWAK
Science Teacher at Gilmour Academy

"I love the Believe in Ohio program. It's inspired our students who are science minded to start thinking about business. To start thinking about taking what they know about science and turning it into a business. In addition to that, it has helped my colleagues to start thinking that way, as like me, they were never trained to think of themselves as entrepreneurs."



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A Brief History of the Believe in Ohio Program

May 1, 2015

June 27, 2012

The Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR) approved its Commercialization Task Force report entitled, *The Condition of Higher Education in Ohio: Advancing Ohio's Innovation Economy*. The Task Force was convened in direct response to the Governor's call for increased job creation and economic growth in Ohio by advancing the state's innovation economy. While the report dealt mainly with activities within the University System of Ohio, it also included the following recommendations relative to pathways from K-12 education:

- *"The next generation of technology innovation will come from today's students who should be exposed to an entrepreneurial curriculum, provided with real life experiences and supported in promoting their intellectual ideas"* (Page 6)
- *"Ohio's Higher Education Institutions should ... (work) directly with Pre K-12 systems to increase the pipeline of (high school students) who are qualified in the STEM disciplines"* (Page 22)
- *Ohio should "promote business plan competitions with meaningful preparations awards and follow-up benefits."* (Page 44)
- *Ohio should "offer competitive full and partial tuition 'Entrepreneurship Scholarships' for promising students who plans to study and engage in entrepreneurship, akin to athletic scholarships"* (Page 44)

Essentially, the Believe in Ohio Program implements these recommendations.

January 23, 2013

The Believe in Ohio team presented its first two year implementation plan to the Ohio Board of Regents at their meeting at the University of Cincinnati. With the support of the Regents, the Believe in Ohio team approached the General Assembly to seek \$5,000,000 in funding for the 2014-2015 Biennial Budget.

June 30, 2013

On this date, Governor Kasich signed into law the 2014-2015 Biennial Budget that included \$5,000,000 in funding for the Believe in Ohio program.

December 16, 2013

On this date, the Believe in Ohio program was announced, roughly half way through the 2013-2014 school year. The late start in getting the program started was caused by unavoidable delays in getting State Controlling Board approval.

January 2014

With funding approved and the program announced, development of the Believe in Ohio program begins.

April 9, 2015

Following 15 months of intensive development (and quarterly reporting to the OBOR), on this date, the Believe in Ohio team presented its accomplishments to Chancellor John Carey and OBOR staff. Essentially, the Believe in Ohio team has accomplished virtually everything that it stated it would do in its January 23, 2013 presentation to the OBOR.