



Inspiring Tomorrows™

We are future leaders!



March 05, 2021

Kristin Harrington
Executive Director
Youth Solutions Inc.
330 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Ms. Harrington,

On behalf of Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana, I am writing to express support for the Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor effort and its work to bring together a robust collection of local leaders, including our own expert Linda Tinsley (Director, Berrien & Cass Counties). As an integral member of the Southwest Michigan community we understand the need to design a cross-sector collaborative for this type of work. Junior Achievement is excited to play our part in engaging area employers in order to create seamless high-quality student programming resulting in long-term career success.

Junior Achievement's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed. The inspiration piece comes from community volunteers who not only deliver our lessons, but share their experience. In the process, these volunteers serve as role models helping to positively impact young people's perceptions about the importance of education, as well as critical life skills. Preparation involves our proven lessons that promote financial capability, work and career readiness, and business ownership. In short, we know and are committed to the work that the collaborative group is undertaking.

The Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor project will focus directly on programs targeting youth that have been disenfranchised and need new educational opportunities for future success. Aligning these programs into a network that includes the right interventions, at the right times, with the right partners will create lasting, meaningful, and substantive opportunities for all students of the region. These goals directly align with the mission of Junior Achievement and we are eager to be a collaborative voice in this most important work. It is my pleasure to **whole-heartedly endorse the Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor project and commit to its success.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lena Yarian".

Lena Yarian
President, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana