



March 18, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Harrington,

On behalf of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, 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. As an integral member of the Southwest Michigan community we understand the need to design a cross-sector collaborative for this type of work. The Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber 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.

Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber is a member-driven organization whose mission is to leverage every available resource within our network for the advancement of our members and the betterment of all who live and work in our community. Many of these members have identified a looming talent shortage as a possible disruption to their business cycles. Our aim with the collective impact of this work is to increase student readiness levels to enter our workforce. 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 the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, and we are eager to be a collaborative voice in this important work. In short 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 that reads "Arthur A. Havlicek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Arthur Havlicek**  
President & CEO

**Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber**  
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