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March 9, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Harrington,

On behalf of Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren 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 experts Allie Knapp (Bridge Academy Director) and Diane Young (Success Coach). As an integral member of the Southwest Michigan community we understand the need to engage with a cross-sector collaborative for this type of work. Michigan Works! BCVB is excited to play our part in order to create seamless high-quality student programming to provide future career opportunities and student success.

Michigan Works! Berrien, Cass, Van Buren has a focus on education, training, and building a skilled workforce for regional employers. We are one of 16 workforce development boards across the State of Michigan that are driving change. Michigan Works! is in the business of shaping qualified talent to help businesses thrive and grow so that positive economic change can happen in our community. We are not the unemployment office, but rather an organization that can provide guidance on finding the right talent for your business. 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 Michigan Works! BCVB 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,

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lily Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Lily Brewer
Executive Director