



February 25, 2016

To New Skills for Youth Grant Committee:

On behalf of the School District of New Berlin, I am writing to support Wisconsin's application for the New Skills for Youth (NSFY) grant.

We are pleased to be part of a cross sector team charged with the collective goal of ensuring all students are prepared to effectively navigate the worlds of post-secondary education, training and work in support of their personal, academic, social and career goals.

Redefining College and Career Readiness has been a priority of mine since I served on the Joint Legislative Committee for Improving Opportunities in High School. It is our collective work to help students develop a diverse set of talents that can fuel innovation and job creation while supporting projected workforce needs.

In the School District of New Berlin, we are proud of our success in preparing students to succeed academically. With rare exception, all of our student's graduate high school and 91% aspire to attend some form of college. However, we know we need to do more if we want to ensure that all students complete a post-secondary credential with value in the projected labor market. They need to know what they are investing in and how that aligns to their unique skills and abilities and the goals they have for their future. Given projected demography, we simply can't afford to wait to address these needs.

Our work over the past three years, as well as the priorities outlined in our strategic plan, shows the level of commitment we have to this work. Our entire staff is engaged in these efforts. Specifically, the School District of New Berlin:

- Created a "Vision of the SDNB Graduate" that reinforces a broader view of College and Career Readiness
- Aligned our District mission, vision, values and strategic plan to this vision
- Sought the support and advice of industry as well as post-secondary education providers to increase the relevance of our programs and services in relation to post-secondary success.
- Expanded programs and services to focus on:
 - K12 Career Exposure
 - K12 Integration of 'Dispositions for Success' in grading and reporting practices
 - Foundational Career and Technical Education for all secondary students (includes employability, personal finance, career research, etc.)
 - Personal planning and adult mentorship through the implementation of a 'Program of Study Framework' and 'Academic and Career Planning'

Joe Garza
Superintendent
Joe.Garza@nbexcellence.org

School District of New Berlin
4333 S Sunnyslope Road
New Berlin WI 53151

262 789 6220 office
262 786 0512 fax

The School District of New Berlin does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability. For more information, follow this link:

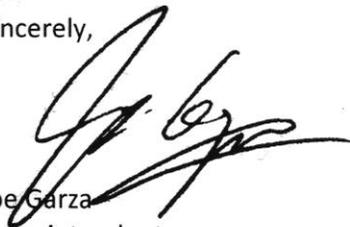
[\[http://www.nbexcellence.org/district/disclaimers.cfm\]](http://www.nbexcellence.org/district/disclaimers.cfm).

- Expansion of 'Career Focused Programs' with embedded credentials/certifications in IT/Computer Science, Nursing/Health Care, Business/Entrepreneurship, Education, Manufacturing, Construction/Trades and Engineering in support of projected workforce needs.
- Expansion of CTSOs, Applied/Experiential and Work Based Learning programs
- Strengthening post-secondary alignment through strong partnerships with the technical college system, UW Colleges as well as our UW Universities.
- Expanded the way we measure progress towards College and Career Readiness in alignment with 'shared objectives' as well as best practices outlined in the CCSO Opportunities and Options Report.
- Ongoing advocacy for:
 - a more holistic and sustainable approach to dual enrollment programming to reduce the cost and time to degree.
 - revising the way career and technical education is funded as this sends a message regarding its importance for all students.
 - a regional approach to fostering relationships between industry and education.
 - expansion of the legislative definition of career prep to focus on all pathways to a career to encourage active engagement of all post-secondary education providers in this important work.

We believe our work is directly aligned to many related efforts in our local community, county, economic development region as well as the State of WI and look forward to continuing to collaborate on shared objectives. We are truly passionate about this work.

We appreciate your consideration of the State's application and would welcome the opportunity to be part of a national effort to design and deliver programs and policy in order to ensure students graduate high school effectively positioned to complete a post-secondary credential that supports their personal, academic, social and career goals effectively and economically.

Sincerely,



Joe Garza
Superintendent

cc: David Maxey, President, Board of Education
Tom David, Vice President, Board of Education
Laura Schmidt, Strategic Advisor to the Superintendent