

November 1, 2015

Jennifer Nygaard Pontzer, Executive Director
Career Street
8500 Oliver Rd.
Erie, PA 16509

Dear.... (To Whom It May Concern,)

Career Street launched in our community almost 2 years ago, brought about by an identified need for business leaders and educators to connect and develop future talent. It was designed specifically for Erie, with Erie employers, Erie citizens and Erie needs in mind. I am writing to you today to tell you it is working.

To date, Career Street has over 100 local employers offering local students career exploration experiences. More than 50 nonprofits are also engaged and every public school district and the Catholic Diocese throughout Erie County is participating and financially contributing to Career Street.

This fall, Career Street participated in the Erie Community Foundation's Erie Gives Day receiving \$5,400 in private donations. These funds were used to reimburse participating school districts for transportation to the area's first Manufacturing Day Event where over 1,300 students had hands-on opportunities to learn about numerous manufacturing careers available in our area including engineering of all disciplines, welding, CNC operations, mechanics, and robotics. It doesn't stop there. Since its launch in February 2014, Career Street has reimbursed schools for programs, materials, and transportation supporting 130 career exploration experiences for over 7,000 students.

Sustaining Career Street depends on three areas of support: nonprofit grants, schools, and the private sector. Currently, all public school districts in Erie County as well as the Catholic Diocese are financially contributing on an annual basis. Career Street receives grant money from The Erie Community Foundation and the United Way of Erie County, NWPA Youth Services, as well as Educational Improvement Tax Credit donations (EITC). Now we need your help.

I'm writing to ask you to consider making an investment in our future workforce and in today's youth and their career exploration experiences. This is the future of our community. By supporting Career Street, you will provide students a jumpstart to their future success and be ready to contribute to your success.

Please consider making a donation to this proven program and keep the momentum going. Enclosed/attached you will find additional information about the program and some suggested giving levels. Please reach out to me or any member of the Career Street Advisory Board if you have questions or would like more information. Our kids and our community are counting on your support.

Thank you,

Jennifer Nygaard Pontzer
Career Street, Executive Director