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College of Science

Office of the Dean

14 October 2009

**Foundation for the Tri-State Community, Inc.**

Maudella Taylor Endowment Fund

PO Box 7932

Huntington, WV 25719-7932

To the Members of Maudella Taylor Award Committee:

I am delighted to write to you in strong support of the project entitled "*Science and Community Service Enrichment Program for at risk youth in Fairfield West*". There are several aspects of the proposed activity that, in my opinion, make it worthy of funding. In fact, I am so impressed by the proposed activities that the Marshall University College of Science has promised significant support to facilitate the project. I hope that you will be able to join us in supporting this worthwhile endeavor.

One important aspect of the project is the focus on at-risk males between the ages of 6 and 10 years of age. This is an age range when children are forming opinions that will strongly influence the decisions that they make later in life. The proposed efforts would introduce participants to concepts as diverse as botany, healthy nutrition, and community service in a seamless and project-based format. These are not only valuable lessons, but they will be taught in a way that is most likely to leave the participants with long-lasting knowledge and skills.

Another beneficial aspect of the project will be the introduction of the participants to activities on a university campus. It is our strong desire that these students will develop a sense of being welcomed in a campus environment, and that these experiences will lead them to be more likely to pursue higher education as a life-long goal.

The College of Science will provide use of greenhouse space, utilities, and materials as outlined in the proposal under "In Kind Contributions". Furthermore, College of Science faculty members will be available to provide advice and assistance as needed throughout the project.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me at any time if I can provide further information that will facilitate your decision making process.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles C. Somerville'.

**Charles C. Somerville, PhD**

Dean, College of Science

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