



March 20, 2017

Dear Grant Review Committee:

I strongly support Clothing INC in their application for a grant from your organization. This grant will enable Clothing INC to continue the important role they play in connecting our students at Central Michigan University with an opportunity to increase their skills and knowledge in ways that we cannot do within the walls of a classroom. I would like to share with you the two ways Clothing INC has partnered with my students to create these opportunities.

A team of my students partnered with Clothing INC as their client project for my 300-level business communication class during the fall 2015 semester. Kaye Peasley, the coordinator at Clothing INC, worked tirelessly with this team of students to ensure they were not only challenged in accomplishing the goals established for their project, but also that they learned how to apply the skills and knowledge from the classroom in a real-world setting. I can't tell you how significant this type of real-world, hands-on learning experience is for a college student. This type of experience impacts their ability to succeed in the workforce now and after they graduate. The positive feedback I received from the students who worked on this project demonstrated to me how much this type of partnership supports the educational goals of our University.

I have had many students continue to work with Clothing INC since the fall 2015 semester. Students in the capstone course in the program I teach in are required to complete a semester-long project with a non-profit organization. Many of these students have chosen to work with Kaye at Clothing INC for their project. These students have completed a variety of projects that Kaye has helped to design with each student to meet their individual interests while developing their skills and abilities. Again, I have to say that this type of real-world experience is invaluable to our students. I cannot simulate the hands-on, feet-on-the-ground, authentic experience they gain working with Clothing INC. They develop better critical thinking skills and while building their confidence in their knowledge and skills as they plan and carry out their project meeting real deadlines, fulfilling real responsibilities, and making decisions that matter.

Please accept my highest recommendation for this grant to be awarded to Clothing INC. This organization is evidence of how caring people in our community can work together to achieve great things. This organization is making a difference in the lives of our students at CMU and in the lives of those people in our community who depend on the important services Clothing INC provides. Please feel free to contact me if needed at nancy.hicks@cmich.edu.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hicks

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