

Office of the President

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Jim Gray Office of the Mayor Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government 200 E. Main St. Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gray:

We believe in investing in downtown. It's good for downtown and good for the investor. That's why we believe in the Town Branch Commons Corridor Project and the importance of the TIGER grant investment.

Five years ago, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, one of the largest two-year community and technical colleges in the state, broke ground on a 92,240-square-foot, four-story Classroom Building in an underserved area of Lexington. The LEED-certified facility now accommodates over 1,500 students and houses 11 academic programs, including high-wage, high-demand programs such as Computer Information Technology.

The Classroom Building was an unprecedented opportunity to help transform a neighborhood, a city, and a region. We had many partners help us become a brand new, vibrant, urban community college campus.

It's good for our students to have a state-of-the-art building that is easy to access. And it's good for the neighborhood, much of which is low-income, that educational opportunities are within walking distance and on convenient bus lines.

We envision a similar transformation with the Town Branch Commons Corridor project. Not only will the project benefit our students who live in and travel through downtown, it will also improve downtown with accessibility and environmentally friendly features.

Finally, it will benefit the investors – from the city to the federal government to private organizations - as they see a downtown that is vibrant, citizens who are connected to increased opportunity and visitors who spend money at our stores and restaurants.

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From our own experience with our transformative Classroom Building, we know that big ideas aren't realized without partnerships. For this reason – and for all the project benefits to our students, their potential employers and their community – we ask for funding to support the Town Branch Commons Corridor project.

If you need any additional information, please contact me by email at augusta.julian@kctcs.edu or by phone at 859-246-6501.

Sincerely,

Augusta A. Julian, Ed. D.

President/CEO