March 26, 2009

To Whom It May Concern
c/o Mr. Ronald J. Seiffert
Interim President
Ohio Dominican University
1216 Sunbury Road
Columbus, Ohio 43219-2099

Battelle is pleased to write this letter of support for Ohio Dominican University’s (ODU) new science building, Battelle Hall, as part of its capital campaign. As evidenced by Battelle’s $2,000,000 investment, this building is especially aligned with our Education Signature interests and our desire to be a catalyst for positive sustainable change in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education at a national scale.

The new science center, placed in a prominent position on the ODU campus, will make STEM careers and the path to obtain them more visible. It is Battelle’s pleasure to partner with ODU on this important capital campaign and we encourage others to get involved in this important effort. ODU, as a member of the private sector, is an especially important core partner in education reform. With the investment of others, ODU can continue to make an important contribution to the academic community, central Ohio, and – most importantly – our students. Please join us in this important endeavor.

Beyond serving as a physical centerpiece to ODU’s evolution as a 21st century learning environment, the new science center will play a significant role in three educational and economic innovations. First, the center will support a significant shift in the way science will be taught and learned on campus. There will be a much greater emphasis on inquiry-based learning emphasizing creativity, innovation and collaborative work. Second, the center will be a state-of-the-art learning environment for outreach educational programs connected to the new Linden McKinley STEM High School. ODU’s partnership with the new Linden school will expand and deepen the opportunity for students from underrepresented populations to succeed in STEM academic and career fields. Third, the center will connect science and technology resources to local economic development initiatives and capacities.

Investment in 21st century learning spaces will help attract and focus young minds on the problems and solutions our interconnected world must confront for mutual prosperity and sustainability. In a recent study of 7th graders 74% would rather take out garbage or go to the dentist than do their math homework. This alarming trend is of great concern to both Battelle and our country. To counteract this, we need to increase the number of science and technology literate global citizens, and the number who choose to pursue STEM careers. Since ODU is an important source of STEM teachers in central Ohio, we believe the capacity increases achieved through this capital campaign will translate to a larger pipeline of teacher attraction, preparedness, and certification in STEM fields at ODU.

Best regards,

Richard D. Rosen
Corporate Vice President
Education and Philanthropy Partnerships

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