

To Whom It May Concern

It is my pleasure to offer support of the nomination of the Hanover Education Foundation (HEF) for the 2017 Marc Weiss Award in the small organization category. The HEF is a community organization which meets much of the stated criteria for award eligibility. And indeed, the HEF's success within the community has been directly influenced by the leadership and good deeds of Marc Weiss, himself.

In 1998, the Hanover Education Foundation revised its mission to support the training and professional development needs of Hanover County Public School employees. Since then, through investments aimed at increasing student achievement and, therefore, strengthening the school district's capacity and brand, the HEF has enjoyed much success through its training and professional development emphases. Particularly, as it relates to the award criteria, the HEF has a nearly two decade record of applying innovative techniques to achieve a better trained, stable, and happy workforce, creating an innovative workplace culture, and using effective training strategies to optimize the workforce and develop future leaders.

The HEF pivoted in this way because business leaders within the community made a compelling case that economic development policy must be inextricably interwoven with local education policy. Marc Weiss was one of the greatest champions of this philosophy. Indeed, his vision for a set of robust career and technical curriculum offerings resulted in many of the high quality, premier programs in place today in Hanover's schools.

Behind the success of those programs, and many, many others within the school district is the Hanover Education Foundation. The Foundation's set of targeted investments in the teachers, school leaders, and staff has produced a culture, a community relationship, and a belief that Hanover's school children will compete with other world class students and, as a result, businesses and the economy will flourish. To further promote fidelity between the economic development needs and the education needs, business leaders who comprise the HEF Board of Directors determine and oversee the investments made by the Foundation, whether they are grants, donations, large bequests, or more from businesses, individuals, and estates.

I know that each of my observations in this nomination can be backed up with data and anecdotes that make the case even more succinctly for the HEF to be the recipient of the Marc Weiss Award. It is my hope that you will see from this letter and other input at a high level that the impact of the Hanover Education Foundation has been substantial, intentional, and in the case of thousands of educators and the students they serve, transformative.

Best wishes with your important decision making. Thank you for promoting the vision and legacy of Marc Weiss in this very meaningful way annually.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Roberson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Stewart D. Roberson
Superintendent Emeritus
Hanover County Public Schools

