



731 N. Plum Street, Union City, IN 47390, www.uc-ef.org

January 20, 20XX

Alumni or Friend of Union City Education
123 Progress Way
Education City, ST 54321

Greetings !

Your interest in exploring the UC Education Foundation project is appreciated! We have a wealth of information online, but possibly so much that the core issues can become unfocused. So here's a try at one-page \on the key points. When online, our **overview video** is a strong summary.

Big picture, small-town public education is threatened by a combination of rapid change and chronic government underfunding. There is no reason to believe that funding support gets better, despite the facts that issues are more dire and will require serious dollars.

Unfortunately but realistically, our historic Alumni Association was not remotely prepared to play at the economic support level required today. The Education Foundation structure is emerging, state and national, as best suited to receive and distribute K12 secondary school philanthropy. So the immediate goal of this letter is to encourage your direct or indirect (via influence) help in funding UCEF. In terms of scope, we're talking about multi-millions via a coordinated, sustained interaction with alumni nationwide. Immediate need is our "Seed Funding Campaign," allowing us to complete infrastructure build including paid, part-time, staffing.

Our summary video makes clear that assistance is needed in assuring that technology in curriculum is competitive with larger, wealthier schools; and that we address the teacher shortage crisis -- a looming disaster if trends toward teacher disillusionment aren't reversed. The video and website provides depth.

Our greatest discovery of need and opportunity pertains to the field we have historically called **scholarships**. Since the 1950s, we have viewed support of "next stage education" as a high priority, meaning, back then, "support of 4-year degree seekers." Today, the value of supporting student next-stage progress includes 4-year degrees and alternative vocational pathways. It is more important than ever, but we are failing to understand, much less address, the realities today's kids and their families face.

Since 2015, college costs have skyrocketed beyond anything we 20th Century graduates could even imagine. Indiana's state schools are publishing 4-year, full ride cost estimates over \$100,000. K12 Philanthropic giving, which back then sent multiple kids to school with scholarships that covered a major share of college costs, has been greatly diminished in percentage support. Example: \$200,000 endowed at a 4% payout, will send ONE KID to state school for less than one semester.

So one critical UCEF goal is re-energizing K12 philanthropy, through a foundation's ability to engage supporters who care, and then sharply focus dollars on immediate and pressing needs.

Our biggest contribution can be on a battlefield we overlooked until recently. By lack of alternatives, many students and families turned to student loans to address skyrocketing costs. The results have been horrific, affecting 45 million borrowers of \$1.6 trillion, \$41,000 average debt, and 40% of debt holders have dropped out of college, heavy debt, no degree. Union City kids and families have been similarly affected, and amazingly "no one knew" because the pain is suffered one family at a time, inside the walls of their home.

This topic requires careful "fresh eyes" review, but it is a stunner, and we have innovative solutions as part of our Foundation vision, helping kids and families who desperately need Advanced Guidance Counseling.

So -- we look forward to our discussion -- it will be an eye opener, guaranteed, hopefully part of your reason to engage at some level. In any case, thank you for your consideration. I look forward to next steps

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Corbin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William G. Corbin, President

UCEF is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Corporation