## Lyndon USD #421

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January 27, 2023

RE: USD 421 Letter of Support for the Rural Vitality Center Project

To whom it may concern,

As the superintendent of Lyndon USD 421, I am excited about the limitless educational opportunities the Rural Vitality Project could provide for not only the students of Lyndon but the entire East Central Kansas area. We would love to be a strategic partner for this project.

The Rural Vitality Center would offer so many areas of need for students. From hands on learning, to social-emotional services to recreation and academic projects. The possible location of North Lyon County or Wabaunsee County would be ideal for travel as it would be within 30 minutes of our schools. The Flint Hills League and Lyon County League schools could hold their leadership activities at the RVC. Larger cities such as Topeka, Ottawa and Emporia, are within an easy drive to the RVC. Literally, thousands of students would benefit from this facility. The educational leaders in our area feel strongly that centers such as the RVC are so important to help facilitate hands-on and communication skills amongst youth. Students need opportunities to meet other students and learn to communicate in person, not just using cell phones, social media, etc. Not only does the vision of the Rural Vitality Center align with our district, it also aligns with the State Department of Education. A facility such as this would only help our youth develop the soft skills needed to provide for themselves, their families and their communities.

This center would be able to educate so many youths of the importance of rural communities. I feel it would help reiterate how special our rural area is and the importance of staying home. I grew up in North Lyon County and it was important to me that I stay close to the area. Hopefully, the RVC will inspire others to do the same. Our district strongly supports this project and am hopeful that this will become a reality for the students of Kansas.

Sincerely,

**Brad Marcotte** 

**USD 421 Superintendent**