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Senate of Pennsylvania

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June 20, 2022

Senator Jay Costa
Democratic Leader
Room: 535 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203043
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3043

Senator Vincent Hughes
Minority Chairman, Appropriations Committee
Room: 545 Main Capitol
Senate Box 203007
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3007

Re: Support for \$850,000 Toward the Partnership to Advance Learning in STEM Program

Dear Leader Costa and Chairman Hughes,

As we start finalizing the budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year this week, I want to advocate for ASSET, Inc.'s request for \$850,000 to grow its Partnership to Advance Learning in STEM program ("PALS"). This program provides much needed opportunities for K-12 students who experienced learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic and for up-and-coming teachers who need training and certification hours. ASSET, Inc. provides equipment to students who need tutoring help, which includes laptops, document cameras, headphones, and Wi-Fi hotspots. This started as a collaboration in Spring of 2021 among Duquesne University, Westminster College, Asset Inc., the Pittsburgh Learning Collaborative, A+ Schools, the Pittsburgh Foundation, and the Heinz Endowment.

Additional funding for PALS will allow ASSET, Inc. and its partners to continue mitigating the long-term effects of COVID-19 learning loss by pairing pre-service educator tutors with K-12 learners in a remote learning environment. Program leaders have already secured \$385,000 in private funding. Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation supported the strategic integration of the PALS program into four courses at Carlow University, enabling the deployment of around 100 pre-service teachers to support approximately 150 Pittsburgh learners via remote tutoring. This spring, the Carlow students have been joined by 13 pre-service educators from the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown. I'm encouraged by this initiative and support this funding request. If you have any follow up questions, please do not hesitate to reach out: Lindsey.Williams@PASenate.com | 412-364-0469.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindsey M. Williams".

Lindsey M. Williams
38th Senatorial District