



**Eric S. Gordon**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

February 5, 2018

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Eric S. Gordon

**Board of Education**  
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**Ex Officio Members**

Ronald M. Berkman, Ph.D.

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.

Mr. David D. Legeay  
Chairman of the Board  
NewBridge Cleveland  
3634 Euclid Ave., Suite 100  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Legeay,

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) fully endorses NewBridge's (CLE|LEAD) youth program.

CLE|LEAD is overseen by a certified therapist working with three professional teaching artists who provide mentorship, training and support. Each year 9th-11th graders receive 6 months of arts-based training and support in order to: build leadership qualities; the social emotional skills to be successful in school, work, and life; and provide employability skills and access to employment opportunities.

NewBridge's CLE|LEAD students receive scholarships to the Cleveland Institute of Art's Pre-College residential program, which awards them college credit. The intent is to give these students a college experience to show them what is possible and inspire them to consider earning a college degree.

CLE|LEAD students also serve as paid mentors to younger students during NewBridge's summer arts camp for middle school youth. This innovative employment experience is another opportunity for students to build their leadership skills and become more involved in the community.

CLE|LEAD utilizes important collaborations with a number of other stakeholders throughout the city. Agreements with Youth Opportunities Unlimited, the Cleveland Food Bank, Kids Book Bank, and others enhances students' learning and helps drive down costs by eliminating unnecessary duplication of services.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric S. Gordon', is written over a printed name.

Eric S. Gordon  
Educator: Chief Executive Officer



**Eric S. Gordon**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

July 25, 2017

Mr. David D. Legeay  
Co-Chairman of the Board, Treasurer  
NewBridge Cleveland  
3634 Euclid Ave., Suite 100  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Dear Mr. Legeay,

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) fully supports NewBridge's funding requests from the philanthropic community. NewBridge is an important partner of ours, filling an essential need by providing at-risk students with necessary leadership training and social-emotional development opportunities.

NewBridge has worked side by side with CMSD to develop and implement this program in order to support local youth who lack the guidance and experiences to help them grow. This new leadership program also complies with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices.

NewBridge's program is offered at no cost to students and is overseen by a certified art therapist working with three professional teaching artists. Each year 50 9th-11th graders receive 6 months of arts training and support in order to build leadership qualities, develop the social emotional skills to be successful in school, work, and life, and provide employability skills and access to employment opportunities.

NewBridge's students will also have the opportunity to earn a scholarship to the Cleveland Institute of Art's Pre-College residential program, which would award them college credit. The intent is to give these students a college experience to show them what is possible and inspire them to consider earning a college degree.

These students will also mentor younger students during NewBridge's summer arts camp for middle school youth. This innovative employment experience is another opportunity for students to build their leadership skills and become more involved in the community.

I serve on NewBridge's Board of Directors, as I believe in the value and necessity of the mission and work being executed. The NewBridge programming provides a powerful supplement to my students' educational experiences and, I believe, is deserving of philanthropic support.

Sincerely,

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Eric S. Gordon  
Educator: Chief Executive Officer

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