

NaviGo Scholars Inaugural Year 2014-2015

The Northern Kentucky Education Council is grateful to our corporate partners for their support for, and engagement in, the NaviGo Scholars Program. We asked our business partners in this inaugural year to share their thoughts. Here are their comments.



TOYOTA

For some time, we've been thinking about a different approach to recruitment for our future workforce . . . one that could start as students are in middle school or entering high school. We feel it has become necessary to help younger students understand the great manufacturing jobs that exist in today's world . . . and then help guide them, and their parents, toward these careers. NaviGo Scholars is the perfect answer to this "let's start earlier" strategy we were already thinking about.

Helen Carroll, Manager, Community Relations



Duke Energy has served the Southwest Ohio/Northern KY region for over 175 years, and supporting educational initiatives has been a top priority during that time. We realize that support of educational initiatives is indeed support of our future workforce. And investing in the workforce of the future takes many forms and requires all of us . . . schools, parents, government and businesses to "be at the table." Investing in our future workforce requires immediate attention, especially for those jobs in Northern Kentucky that are so critical to our economy such as manufacturing and STEM careers. Duke Energy is pleased to support the unique NaviGo Scholars program to encourage students with interests in these specific areas.

Rhonda Whitaker, Director of Government & Community Relations



At Citi, we strive to make a positive difference in the communities where we live and work; it is the foundation of our community commitment and a value that is deeply embedded in our culture. Education is one of the most effective tools we have found to help people improve the quality of their lives, and it is an investment where we believe the community sees the longest, lasting impact. Our commitment not only includes monetary donations to life-long learning educational opportunities, but also spanning further to developing and supporting programs that work to improve the quality of education for all ages and specific job and life-skills training.

Ryan Helwig, National Sales Operations Support Director



**THE BANK
OF KENTUCKY**

The Bank of Kentucky has been part of the Northern Kentucky community since 1990 and from the beginning, we focused on supporting local schools and organizations that positively impact the development and progress of students. Sponsoring a scholar recipient and supporting the NaviGo Scholar initiative is another way The Bank of Kentucky can continue our commitment to education in the area. We are proud to be a business partner and sponsor.

Mark Exterkamp, Executive Vice President



For over two decades, Heritage Bank has offered scholarships to outstanding students in our community, and we strongly advocate for educational opportunities that enhance life skills and workforce readiness. Our company core principles include the development of next generation leadership, and helping to create a vibrant environment in which to live and work. Heritage Bank is proud to expand our commitment to educational success by sponsoring a NaviGo scholar, and pleased to continue a long tradition of advancing career opportunities for local students.

H. Lytle Thomas, President and CEO