



September 23, 2020

GO Northern Virginia Grant Review Board
3040 Williams Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

Dear GO Northern Virginia Grant Review Board,

The Arlington Chamber of Commerce is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools on behalf of Fairfax County Public Schools and Arlington Public Schools' grant proposal to GO Virginia for the proposed TechInnovation and Equity in Computing Hub (TECH) project.

The Chamber supports initiatives and programs to align training and educational programs with projected workforce needs, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Moreover, the Chamber encourages establishing incentives to motivate employers to develop workplace learning opportunities for high school students to allow school systems to align with the "Profile of Virginia Graduate." The TECH project will support both of these goals.

The Chamber's Education and Workforce Development Committee aims to foster relationships between education and business in Arlington and strategies to provide the community with additional educational and career opportunities. The Chamber organizes an annual Job Shadow Day with APS, in which students visit Arlington businesses to introduce them to what our businesses do and how they do it so that they can begin to think about their own career development. The Chamber would be pleased to make similar connections to support the TECH program's Strategic Actions.

The Chamber offers its full support for the TECH project grant proposal. We look forward to connecting businesses, schools, and students to support its goals, and recommend it to its sponsors. We thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Bates
President & CEO

CC: Arlington School Board; APS Superintendent Dr. Francisco Durán;