

April 26, 2012

Terry W. Cunningham
Executive Director
Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority
906 E. Sevier Avenue
P.O. Box 44
Kingsport, TN 37662

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

On behalf of Northeast State Community College (NeSCC), I am pleased to submit this firm commitment letter in support of the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority's 2012 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant application being submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

As a comprehensive community college, Northeast State provides university parallel programs designed for students desiring to transfer to another college or university, career programs for students planning to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation, and continuing education and community service programs for professional growth and personal enrichment to the citizens of Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties. In partnership with the community, the college sustains the effort toward improving the quality of life for residents of the Northeast Tennessee region. The college's fall 2011 headcount enrollment was 6,478 credit students.

NeSCC and Sullivan County offer a unique program to provide a free, public education from Kindergarten through an Associates' Degree ("K-14"). Eligible students who meet NeSCC acceptance criteria are able to access scholarships that ensure two years of education at NeSCC at no cost to the student. NeSCC is already working with many students in the Midtown Choice Neighborhood, both in degree and in technical training programs. Other assistance is provided to improve post-graduate job placement success, such as resume reviews and mock interviews. These services are free to NeSCC students.

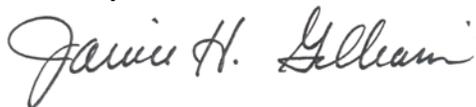
Given our long history of collaboration and the alignment of our educational mission with your Midtown Choice Neighborhood goals, NeSCC commits to functioning as an Anchor Institution for the duration of the two-year Transformation Planning period. NeSCC further commits to

contribute and to providing \$7,010 of in-kind services over the two-year grant period. The in-kind service Northeast State commits to over the two-year period is listed below (and provided in further detail on the attached page):

- Providing staff with relevant capabilities and expertise to participate in, lead and support the activities of the Transformation Plan Stakeholder Planning Committee;
- Providing leadership, in-kind resources, knowledge and expertise from the faculty, staff and students in support of the design, implementation and review of a baseline educational needs assessment;
- Providing leadership, in-kind resources, knowledge and expertise from the faculty, staff and students in support of the Educational Opportunities Planning policy priority on your Education Focus Group; and
- Assisting in developing and supporting the Capacity Building policy priority of the Transformation Plan.

The Choice Neighborhoods Planning program is intended to forge broad-based partnerships to transform neighborhoods and create viable communities. We are enthusiastic to have this opportunity to be a part of that partnership and strongly support your 2012 Planning Grant application. We are committed to participating in the planning and implementation process and look forward to the same. We applaud your leadership and remain committed to collaborating with the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority to provide well-educated students who are prepared to participate fully in a 21st century city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice H. Gilliam".

Janice H. Gilliam, Ed. D.
President

Attachment

Attachment to Letter of Support

IN-KIND DONATION FOR 2012 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING GRANT

Staff salary estimate for Stakeholder Planning Committee (40 hrs),
Education Focus Group (40 hrs) for a total of 80 hrs.
(3.33 hours monthly x 24 months x \$54 per hour)

\$4,320

Supplies

(note pads and pens for 8 meetings x 20 aver participants, light refreshments, use of electronic equipment/projector/screen)

\$750

Administrative Salary Estimate (5%)

\$160

Administrative supplies

(copy service, postage, paper, computer usage, etc)

\$100

Consulting – for Educational Needs Assessment (10 hrs x \$68)

\$680

Meeting Space – Conference Room for Education Focus Group meetings (8 meetings total x \$125 rental rate)

\$ 1,000

TOTAL

\$7,010