From: Zoerb, Steve J

To: <u>CSC</u>

Subject: Recommendation for Big Step programming **Date:** Wednesday, November 9, 2022 12:01:14 PM

Attachments: Outlook-rufwpfio.png

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Community Services Committe:

I am an instructor, coordinator, and advisor for Madison Area Technical College. We have been thankful partners of Big Step/WRTP for well over a decade. The staff at Big Step is dedicated to helping underprivileged individuals succeed. What they do helps support families, and helps support the community. Stephanie and Candy are vigilant at motivating students to achieve their goals. There are many hurdles to apprenticeships and employment; they give the students all tools necessary to overcome these obstacles, and their track record speaks for itself.

We work with many community partners on grants, and I would say our current grant with Big Step is the most well rounded, in-depth curriculum that we have. Next semester alone, we are coordinating nearly 20 classes with Big Step. Students learn everything they need for their craft, such as OSHA regulations and blueprint reading. They also learn important personal skills, like financial management and CPR. If we ever have difficulty finding a program instructor, they will step in and provide the resources that they have available. Nothing slows them down, and they work tirelessly to ensure all classes run on time and all students show up for class.

It has been a pleasure working with Big Step/WRTP, and I look forward the programs we can create in the future. Our community and our college are stronger for it.

Thank you for your time, Steve Zoerb

