



CABINET FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

Old Capitol Annex
300 West Broadway
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
ThinkKentucky.com

Larry M. Hayes
Secretary

August 31, 2015

Mr. Tony Campbell
President and Chief Executive Officer
East Kentucky Power Cooperative
P.O. Box 707
Winchester, KY 40392-0707

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The Cabinet for Economic Development is committed to strengthening the economy in Eastern Kentucky, and we are pleased to partner with East Kentucky Power Cooperative and others in the creation of a SOAR-STEM Ecosystem. Students and teachers in this region must be equipped with 21st century skills needed to entice industry to expand and relocate into SOAR.

Implementing science, technology, engineering and math curriculum in schools that introduces over 100,000 students to high-quality project-based learning across Eastern Kentucky, paired with professional development and certification for 3,000 teachers, will dramatically influence the future workforce in the SOAR region. Introducing Centers of Excellence across the region around these key STEM skillsets and disciplines will truly bring transformational change to this region and create economic opportunities that currently do not exist.

From the beginning of Shaping Our Appalachian Region, Governor Steve Beshear and Congressman Hal Rogers envisioned a fundamental and transformational change for the region, and we see these efforts to create a STEM based workforce as being key to fulfilling their vision. We look forward to partnering with you on the SOAR-STEM efforts.

Please let me know if there is anything further you need from the Cabinet going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Dunnigan".

Erik Dunnigan
Deputy Secretary