



Nathan Rix
Founder and Lead Consultant
Aviation Youth Empowerment Foundation

December 7, 2020

Dear Mr. Rix,

This letter is written in support of Aviation Youth Empowerment Foundation and the Scholarship Program. Your work to ensure students from a variety of backgrounds from the Northwest achieve financial support in pursuing STEM careers is in alignment with Portland Workforce Alliance's mission to inspire and inform students about amazing pathways to great careers in our region, a large portion of which are STEM-related or adjacent.

PWA, founded in 2005, builds enduring partnerships between Portland-area employers and local public high schools. By providing students with real-life work experiences and career-learning opportunities, we enrich their academic knowledge, inspire them to graduate and help them make informed choices after high school and college. We work closely with school district partners to identify and deliver engaging, career-context, community-based activities that support academic and professional skills development for our region's young people.

For a robust and innovative local economy, our workforce needs to encompass a wide variety of backgrounds, experiences, perspectives and talents. We fully support AYEYF's focus on diversity and their definition that extends beyond personal attributes to skills as well. PWA and AYEYF have a shared goal in providing students from historically underrepresented backgrounds to achieve successful, living wage careers. Together, through AYEYF's STEM scholarship programs and PWA's career learning opportunities, we contribute to a coordinated, wholistic approach to resources for students in developing and achieving their post-secondary plans.

In our support of AYEYF, we commit to sharing opportunities for students in PWA's programs and beyond to access scholarships through AYEYF to pursue STEM careers. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the team at AYEYF.

Sincerely,

Julia Soto, M.S.
Partnerships Director