United Way
of Jackson County

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June 27, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an incredible privilege and honor to write a letter of support SOURCE's efforts to create an interdisciplinary certificate in Regional Studies and Applied Research. I'm very excited to have the opportunity to be supportive of SOURCE because I believe it is the perfect example of chaos theory at work. With so many social change and economic development projects, ideas, questions, and thoughts coming together in our community, the ability to craft a certificate program from existing courses at SOU is rather sublime.

This idea is the right one at the right time and with the right resources and is a big win for all. It's a win for students who will benefit from both theory and practice in applied projects. It's a win for faculty members who must do continuing research. It's a win for the University in furthering civic and community engagement. And it's a serious win for our community on many levels. There is a desperate need for third party validated research on social change and economic development projects. To have university validated studies to move our initiatives forward will have a serious impact on our ability to get work done. With research there will be the opportunity to bring more money into our area from state and federal grant dollars besides private research dollars. SOURCE will create its own economic multiplier effect and it will be vital to its success to have a permanent faculty position.

SOURCE can and will provide us the foundation for knowing where we are, can provide us a needed third party validation of ideas, data and concepts, and will provide us a rich pool of research and researchers for years to come. I am hopeful as this idea weaves its way through university system, the tapestry that will be SOURCE is sewn stronger with each approval. If I can provide any specific feedback or support, I hope you will contact me at 541.773.5339 or emailing me at deeanne@unitedwayofjacksoncounty.org. Thank you for your kind and thoughtful consideration.

Regards,

Dee Anne Everson
Executive Director

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