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July 28, 2004

Geoff Cramer
Executive Director
Futures for Kids, Inc.
3000 Highwoods Blvd., Suite 301
Raleigh, NC 27604

Dear Geoff:

Thank you so much for your recent visit to my office to update me on Futures for Kids (F4K). I was very impressed by how far F4K has come and how much support you have garnered in the last two years. You and your team have built a robust workforce development program that bridges the gap between our young folks' career ambitions and North Carolina's workforce needs.

The connection F4K makes between students and the business community is truly exciting. As someone who has recruited numerous businesses to our state, I know that the number one factor that determines where companies move or expand is the availability of a dependable, qualified workforce. Enabling businesses to connect directly with their future workforce and build a steady pipeline of talented, local labor is more important than any incentive that other states can offer.

Having also been a mentor in our public school system, I have seen firsthand what motivates students. I have learned that motivation is closely tied to relevance. Students who understand that education is an important step to reaching their hopes and dreams will stay in school and excel. F4K has the ability to connect the dots for our students.

I am so proud of what you have been able to accomplish thus far and I look forward to working with you in the future to ensure that F4K becomes a statewide standard and a resource for all of our kids.

My warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,



James B. Hunt Jr.

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