



February 14, 2024

Dr. Ted Maple
Lilly Endowment Inc.
2801 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Dear Dr. Maple:

Please accept this letter in support of Franklin College's application for a Lilly Endowment College and Community Collaboration grant (the "Grant"). This letter is provided upon the unanimous vote of the Central Indiana Regional Development Authority's ("CIRDA") Board of Directors, a Board comprised of the elected executives of twenty-four (24) Central Indiana communities, including the City of Franklin.

CIRDA provides this letter, because Innovation Park at Franklin College is a project with transformative potential for the college, City of Franklin and the broader region. From the cultivation of talent and skill development among students to the creation of sustainable employment opportunities and enhancement of entrepreneurialism, Innovation Park's plans directly align with CIRDA's goal of nurturing a dynamic regional economy. CIRDA also appreciates that Innovation Park is the result of tremendous collaboration and stakeholder engagement conducted by Franklin College as it worked with the City, constituencies throughout Johnson County and a myriad of corporate partners.

Finally, Innovation Park's integration with local community assets and amenities underscores its potential as a catalyst for attracting and retaining top-tier talent, thereby solidifying Central Indiana's reputation as a vibrant hub for innovation and opportunity. For all these reasons, CIRDA fully supports Franklin College's application for the Grant.

Thank you in advance for considering this letter and Franklin College's Innovation Park project.

Best Regards,

Jennifer C. Messer, Executive Director
Central Indiana Regional Development Authority