

LENAWEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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July 29, 2025

To: Michigan Labor and Opportunity Committee
Re: FutureReady Lenawee Program

To Whom It May Concern,

As Chair of the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express my strong support for Lenawee Now's funding request of \$1.25 million over three years to launch and scale the FutureReady Lenawee initiative.

This is not just another program; it is a bold and innovative approach to a statewide challenge. FutureReady Lenawee seamlessly integrates trusted Career Education Navigators with the dynamic Jebbee app to create a unified ecosystem of career exploration, employer engagement, and personalized guidance. The program connects students directly to real-world opportunities through both human relationships and cutting-edge digital tools, ensuring they have the insight and support needed to thrive in an evolving workforce.

Lenawee County has always been proud of its collaborative spirit, and FutureReady Lenawee builds upon that legacy by introducing new Business Navigators who will deepen partnerships with employers and education institutions. These relationships will enrich the student experience with authentic workforce insights, ensuring that guidance is not only personalized but rooted in local opportunity.

With this investment, the State of Michigan has a unique opportunity to elevate a model that is not only transformative for students in our county but fully scalable across the state. FutureReady Lenawee represents the kind of forward-thinking initiative that prepares our students for success in the 21st-century economy while positioning Michigan as a national leader in education, workforce development, and digital innovation.

On behalf of the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners, I urge your full consideration of this funding request. We believe deeply in the power of this initiative and its ability to create lasting, measurable impact for Michigan's students and communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Van Doren", is written over a white rectangular background.

Sincerely,
Jim Van Doren
Chair, Lenawee County Board of Commissioners