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FutureReady Lenawee: A Scalable Model for Integrated Career Navigation Through Human Connection and Digital Innovation

Executive Summary:

FutureReady Lenawee is a transformative, three-year initiative that brings together Lenawee Now's trusted Career Education Navigators with the innovative capabilities of the Jebbee app to create a comprehensive, scalable solution for career readiness across Michigan.

This initiative builds on a successful local foundation by introducing new Business Navigators who will lead employer engagement and content partnerships, helping embed real-world workforce insights directly into students' digital experiences.

With a funding request of \$1.25 million over three years, FutureReady Lenawee will position Michigan as a national leader in career and postsecondary preparation by combining hands-on, localized career guidance with next-generation technology and community collaboration. This program is designed to be duplicated and scaled, ensuring long-term impact and systemic change across the state.

The Need:

Students in Lenawee County, and across Michigan, require more than traditional career counseling to be prepared for a rapidly evolving job market. They need personalized, tech-enabled, real-world-connected guidance that helps them make informed, inspired decisions. While many programs operate in silos, FutureReady Lenawee offers a fully integrated ecosystem that supports students from exploration to execution, backed by real employers, educators, and tech tools designed for today's learners.

Program Goals and Objectives:

- Significantly increase career awareness and postsecondary readiness for K–12 students through integrated, personalized support.
- Build a robust network of employers, postsecondary institutions, and workforce development organizations actively contributing to the student experience via the Jebbee platform.
- Develop and maintain a scalable, replicable model for career navigation that can be shared and implemented across Michigan.

- Empower students to build talent portfolios, educational plans, and career connections using both human and digital supports, bringing the technology to where the students are at, their phones, and enhancing their experience with AI.
- Position Lenawee County and the State of Michigan as national leaders in career readiness innovation.

Conclusion:

The State of Michigan has the opportunity to fund not just a program, but a movement. One that reshapes how students discover and prepare for their futures. FutureReady Lenawee aligns human relationships, workforce development, and digital innovation into one cohesive system.

With this investment, Lenawee County can lead the way, creating a scalable model that ensures every Michigan student has the tools, guidance, and access they need to succeed in the 21st century economy.