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Shawnee State
UNIVERSITY

Development Foundation

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PUCO

June 2, 2011

Mr. Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman
c/o Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: AEP Ohio ESP
PUCO Case Nos. 11-346-EL-SSO and 11-348-EL-SSO

Dear Chairman Snitchler,

AEP Ohio has established a strong record of leadership as a responsible corporate partner to the Shawnee State University Development Foundation. Please accept this letter as evidence of AEP Ohio's substantial philanthropic support and commitment to invest in higher education and economic development. AEP Ohio recognizes through its commitment to our initiatives that, in addition to being an institution of higher education, Shawnee State University also serves as a vital player in the regional and state economy.

Over the past five years, AEP Ohio and the AEP Foundation contributed in excess of $25,000 to Development Foundation scholarships and $150,000 in support of a seven-part plan to lead SSU to a new level of excellence. That plan included increases in undergraduate research, application of technology in the classroom to improve student preparedness for job fields, and enhancement of a number of academic departments and offerings.

During the same period, enrollment at Shawnee State has grown by nearly twenty-five percent and we now offer over eighty masters, bachelors and associate degree programs. AEP's investment not only provided college access through student scholarships, but it was also a critical building block of our Immersive Technology and Arts Center, home to a state-of-the-art motion capture studio. Last year, Shawnee State was recognized by the Ohio Board of Regents as a Center of Excellence in Immersive Technology, thanks largely to these resources and related digital simulation and gaming programs. This year, Shawnee State University was named to the Princeton Review's 2011 national list of Top Undergraduate Game Design Programs.

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Jon Buck serves as AEP Ohio's Manager of Community Affairs for our service region and is a visible participant in community events, civic programming and campus activities. AEP Ohio has demonstrated to the Development Foundation that its commitment to Shawnee State University is sincere and the impact of its giving is significant. I look forward to learning more about new opportunities that the proposed Ohio Growth Fund might make possible in the future.

Our organization is grateful for what AEP Ohio gifts have made possible in furtherance of our mission to enhance Shawnee State and provide opportunities for its students, their families, and the community. It is with pleasure that we consider AEP Ohio neighbors interested in higher education and economic development in southern Ohio.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may provide any further information that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Andrew Braun, JD
Director of Development

cc: Jon Buck, AEP Ohio
Teresa McWain, AEP Foundation