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October 28, 2019

Amy Schrimpf
Quality of Life Review Panel
Dayton Development Coalition
1401 S Main St Suite 200
Dayton, OH 45409

Dear Ms. Schrimpf:

We are writing to express our sincere support for the Wright State University Archives Center Project. As an 8th grade team at the Dayton Regional STEM School, we have utilized the resources provided in the WSU archives many times. Our students were able to use this collection during U.S. History for a Civil War Museum Project as well as a five-class integrated Skin Color Project. Archivist Bill Stolz helped teach our students how to find and analyze real primary source documents from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries.

The goal of the Civil War Museum Project, in particular, was for our students to take on the role of a historian by using the primary sources they encountered to create a museum exhibit. Each student chose a historical figure that played a role during the Civil War conflict and combined their research with other members of their team to design the exhibit. We were fortunate enough to visit the Special Collections and Archives on campus at Wright State University where Mr. Stolz and his team provided our students with the Patterson Family papers. Our students were deeply engaged when they had the opportunity to carefully handle and analyze the letters of correspondence between Julia and Jefferson Patterson, written during the Civil War.

Students who participated in these opportunities were able to analyze history from a perspective not given in a standard U.S. History classroom. During this digital age, it's increasingly important for students to engage with physical documents to bring authenticity to their learning experience. We are so thankful for the Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University, and the staff there who make history come alive for our students.

In summary, the Special Collections and Archives at Wright State University have been an invaluable resource to help our students learn about the past of our community and

country. This project will help ensure that our students continue to have meaningful experiences connecting their learning to real-world primary sources, and that others can do the same. We appreciate your consideration for the continuation of this project.

Sincerely,

  
DRSS 8th Grade Team



October 28, 2019

Come. Discover. Fly!

Air Camp

Armstrong Air & Space Museum

Aviation Trail, Inc.
Visitor Center & Museum

Dayton Aviation Heritage
National Historical Park

Hawthorn Hill

Huffman Prairie Flying Field

*Huffman Prairie Flying Field
Interpretive Center*

*John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers
Aviation Center at
Carillon Historical Park*

*Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial
Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center and
the Wright Cycle Shop*

Dayton History

Greene County
Historical Society

Historic Grimes Field
*Champaign Aviation Museum
Grimes Flying Lab Foundation*

Historic WACO Field

Historic Woodland
Cemetery & Arboretum

National Aviation Hall of Fame

National Museum of the
United States Air Force

Vectren Dayton Air Show

The Wright B Flyer

Wright Family Foundation

Wright Image Group

Wright State University
Wright Archives

Priority Development & Advocacy Committee (PDAC)
Dayton Development Coalition
40 N Main St. Suite 900
Dayton, Ohio 45423

Dear PDAC Committee Members:

Last year, Wright State University's Archive Center received an priority ranking for the impact this project will have on our region. I am asking you to give a priority ranking to the Archive Center again during this state capital budget year. This project is ready to execute and will create a unique research and educational asset serving a wide variety of local, national, and international audiences. It will create permanent jobs and leverage private funding to match the state capital allocation.

Wright State's Special Collections and Archives is the keeper of our region's stories. It preserves and makes available noted Dayton archival collections including the Wright Brothers Collection (largest in the world), the Dayton Daily News collection, and hundreds of individuals and organizations that weave together the story of the Dayton region, aviation, WPAFB, and our people. As the standard-bearer for archival collection and research, the Archives' collections have ballooned in recent years. This project will create the physical space to retain and maintain our stories. This project will relocate the archives to a single space that will be easily accessible to the general public and visiting scholars.

The Archive Center project is in a unique situation. It is part of Wright State University, but had been excluded from past capital project awards for education projects. The University will continue to put forward education projects addressing their critical student needs. This archive project is a community need that the Quality of Life panel can support. On behalf of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance board of trustees, I ask that you continue your strong support for this current project.

Sincerely,

Mackensie Wittmer
Executive Director

Dear Members of the Review Panel,

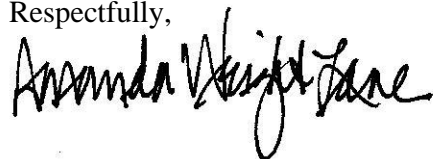
In an October 23rd article in the New York Times, heralding a Google breakthrough in “quantum supremacy”, scientists “likened Google’s announcement to the Wright Brothers first flight in 1903- proof that something is really possible even though it may be years before it can fulfill its potential.” Weekly, there are shout-outs in the media to Dayton’s Wright Brothers, and their achievements that led to the advent of aviation, followed by the age of aerospace. Their story did not end on December 17th, 1903....that wintry day was merely the birth of a new technology that would build America as a world power, and would transform the way we interact with each other on our planet and beyond.

Today, Dayton, Ohio, is home to the largest collection of Wright stuff in the world and that treasure is housed at the Wright State University Library’s Special Collection and Archives. Yearly, weekly, daily....folks from around the world seek out not only the Wright Brothers’ story, but literally thousands of our region’s stories found in the vast collections at Wright State for the purpose of research, writing, reading, or in some cases, just “holding“....many visitors want the opportunity to hold history in their hands.

Moving this world class, one of a kind collection, to a repurposed space will allow WSU to make the archives and its materials more accessible and visible to the public on campus. It will grant the team of professionals that “tends” to these rare papers and artifacts the space to host students of all ages, community groups, and visitors from near and far. It will also allow the University to broaden its’ programs in teaching the science of organizing, preserving, and making accessible priceless materials. And as a matter of practicality, the move to the new building will give this ever expanding collection room to grow.

I couldn’t be prouder of OUR heritage, as it belongs not only to my family, but to you...and our neighbors, and our nation. I ask that you give thoughtful consideration, and priority to, the request from Wright State University for funding for this remarkable project.

Respectfully,



Wright Family