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January 25, 2017

Dr. Ted Baker  
Professor of Management & Global Business  
George F. Farris Chair in Entrepreneurship  
Director, Rutgers Advanced Institute for the Study of Entrepreneurship & Development  
Rutgers Business School—Newark and New Brunswick

RE: Letter of Support for the Rutgers University-Newark Program to Support Re-entry through Entrepreneurship

Dear Dr. Baker,

Greater Newark Enterprises Corporation (GNEC) is pleased to support the Rutgers University-Newark Program to Support Re-entry through Entrepreneurship, "RU Flourishing." Your proposal will provide a valuable service to an otherwise underserved population that have the potential to make significant positive impacts in their lives and the lives of the communities in which they live.

GNEC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) whose mission is to carry out economic and community development by financing small business growth and development, job creation, community facilities and providing financial services to low-income families. GNEC provides financial assistance and training to small businesses in a variety of topical areas, both directly as part of our ongoing programming, and in partnership with our collaborative partners. In that capacity, GNEC has enjoyed a relationship with Rutgers University Newark and the Center for Urban Entrepreneurship and Economic Development (CUEED) in supporting a number of their programs, classes, and initiatives including the Entrepreneurs Pioneers Initiative (EPI) where GNEC has provided financial coaching and supplemental training to EPI participants since its inception.

Having a focus on low income communities and populations in supporting job creation through entrepreneurship, GNEC has experience in serving the ex-offender population. Through both training programs and direct financial services, GNEC has worked to provide access to resources and opportunities to men and women who are otherwise shut out from resources giving their criminal history. It is with this understanding of the importance and impact training and support services have to this community that we support the RU Flourishing initiative and pledge to work with and support both the program and participants in what ways we can to increase their outcomes and success.

Rutgers University-Newark brings a world class reputation of quality, skill, and support to all of the programs they offer, and we at GNEC are happy to support this new initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Gomez", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steven M. Gomez  
Executive Director