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Councilman Weinstein and Bright Minds Foundation Announce After-School Transportation Initiative for Howard County Public School Students

Ellicott City, MD (November 16, 2015) – Even before being elected to office, Howard County Councilman Jon Weinstein has been concerned about the lack of transportation for students who participate in after-school activities. Working with the Bright Minds Foundation, the Howard County Public Schools System (HCPSS) and local businesses, Weinstein crafted the “Driving Student Success” program to raise funds to expand after-school transportation options for students throughout the County.

“There is a direct correlation between a student’s academic success and future opportunities and their involvement in activities after school,” Weinstein states. “Whether participating in a club, seeking extra help, or playing a sport, our student’s should have the opportunity to stay after school and still have access to transportation home.”

Last year, Bright Minds piloted a program with HCPSS that provided transportation for students who wanted to get involved in after-school activities at Hammond High School, but didn’t have a ride home. “Driving Student Success” will expand the program and assist students across the County through private funding from community and business leaders.

“The Bright Minds Foundation is excited to partner with the business community and Councilman Jon Weinstein in the ‘Driving Student Success’ program,” said Lisa Olivieri, Chair of the Bright Minds Foundation Board of Directors. “Howard County is proud of its school system and this program promotes community support that will help maintain its excellence. We look forward to continuing to work with the business community and the Councilman to grow this program.”

Dr. Renee A. Foose, HCPSS Superintendent, sees this initiative as another opportunity for students to maximize their experiences that the schools offer and provide activities for an audience that originally couldn’t participate because of transportation issues.

“This important initiative will allow many more students to pursue the after-school interests and activities that are so important to engagement and academic success,” said Dr. Foose. “I appreciate the partnership of the Bright Minds Foundation in expanding access to enrichment opportunities for all students.”

One local business owner who has been instrumental in raising funds for “Driving Student Success” is Rick Levitan, Owner of Convenience Retailing, LLC.

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“Driving Students Success’ will really make a positive impact in so many ways for the students who can now participate in after school activities,” said Levitan. “As a small business owner in Howard County, I am thrilled to be supporting such a great cause.”

About Bright Minds Foundation:

Bright Minds is the Howard County Public School Educational Foundation. Our mission is to support education, aspirations and the opportunity to succeed for all students within the Howard County Public School system. The Bright Minds Foundation funds programs to provide services and support learning where funding would otherwise not be available within the school system’s budget. These programs are focused on providing all students with equity, equality and access to educational offerings; educational innovation; and lifelong skills. For more information, contact Pat Sasse, Executive Director at pat@brightmindsfoundation.org or [410-740-0707](tel:410-740-0707).

**For more information on “Driving Students Success,” please visit
www.drivingstudentsuccess.org.**

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