

Myron Stratton Home  
555 Gold Pass Heights  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Dear Dan and the Myron Stratton Review Committee,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of Atlas Preparatory School, a K-12 charter school founded in 2009, dedicated to empowering all students for success after graduation through educational excellence, character development, and community engagement. We proudly serve a vibrant community in Southeast Colorado Springs, where 91.5% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch, 93.1% identify as racial or ethnic minorities, and 61.3% are English Language Learners. Our aim is to provide educational pathways that reflect the needs and strengths of our families while addressing the unique challenges they face.

Our high school's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway program prepares students for promising careers in the construction, trades, and healthcare sectors. This initiative is especially vital in a region with limited vocational options, offering industry-aligned training that equips students with both technical and essential life skills. We are requesting \$65,000 in funding from Myron Stratton to support and expand our 4 aspects of our CTE offerings.

### **Certifications and Career Readiness - \$30,500**

#### CTE Certifications:

This funding would cover the cost for 25-35 students to receive OSHA 10, Built Green, PACT Core, and First Aid certifications. OSHA 10 and PACT core are often required for job fair participation and employment eligibility, so these certifications directly impact our students' readiness and access to career options. While some reimbursement is available through CDIP, it's limited and awarded only if students meet specific benchmarks. With your help, we can ensure that students earn these certifications without financial barriers, readying them for career opportunities immediately after graduation. For the first time, funding would also enable us to offer in-class First Aid certification, an essential skill for students working with tools and machinery. Funding would also support the additional staffing required to proctor and cover classes while certifications are being taken.

#### Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Scholarships

Funding would also support 5-7 additional scholarships in our Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program. Last year, Moniker Foundation and Heart to Heart funded scholarships for 13 students, each of whom passed their licensing exams and secured jobs or pursued further healthcare pathways. Interest in this program has continued to grow, and support from Myron Stratton would allow us to meet this increased demand. The impact of this program is profound, and we are proud of students like:

- **Jenie**, who now earns \$21 per hour as a CNA to support her single mother;
- **Roselyn**, who has connected with Navy recruiters to pursue a military medical program that will fund nursing school;
- **America**, a first-generation college student applying to full-need nursing schools nationwide in hopes of securing a full scholarship; and

- **Shay**, who, inspired by her experience, is now applying to nursing programs as she begins her senior year.

With Myron Stratton's support, we can continue expanding this program, allowing more students to gain certifications that lay a foundation for long-term career success.

### **Career Day Sponsorship - \$4,500**

This year, Atlas will host a Spring Career Day for our 120 seniors to meet with local professionals and learn firsthand about career pathways. This full-day event is a valuable opportunity for students to connect with recruiters, business owners, and industry leaders, exploring their options after high school. Throughout the day, students engage in mock interviews, community networking, as well as career presentations. We would be honored if Myron Stratton would also join us as a presenter, engaging with our students and contributing directly to their career readiness.

### **Construction Program Supplies and Staffing - \$30,000**

Our construction daily program provides over 120 students with foundational skills in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work, preparing them for jobs in high-demand fields. Due to the consumable nature of materials, we require annual funding to supply wood, piping, wiring, and other essentials. Your support would enable us to create smaller, more focused group settings, ensuring each student receives personalized instruction and hands-on experience, making the learning environment safer and more effective.

We believe that by investing in robust CTE programs, Atlas is helping students build successful futures while contributing to the vitality of Southeast Colorado Springs. Thank you for considering our request and for your commitment to creating opportunities for our community's youth. We would welcome the chance to discuss this proposal further. Please feel free to reach out at 719-302-2002 x314 or [cmannion@atlasprep.org](mailto:cmannion@atlasprep.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Calley Mannion  
Director of Development  
Atlas Schools