



CITY COUNCIL • 115 Executive Parkway, Suite 400 • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 342-1795

Re: 2106 Cleveland Museum of Natural History Conservation Educator of the Year Award

To: Conservation Education Awards Committee

We are writing in support of Christine DiCato-Thaxton's nomination for the 2016 Cleveland Museum of Natural History Conservation Educator of the Year Award.

A Tinker's Creek tributary flowing along the grounds of Hudson High School had been channelized and degraded as a consequence of the construction of the Ohio Turnpike (Interstate 80) and of the school construction about 20 years ago. Mrs. Thaxton recognized that documenting changes in the tributary that would occur as a result of regenerative stream restoration practices would afford students an excellent environmental instructional opportunity – a hands-on learning laboratory.

For a decade, Mrs. Thaxton persevered in her search for funding and support to undertake the stream restoration and the creation of this land lab for the Hudson School District. She was finally successful when the Tinkers Creek Watershed Partners and Cuyahoga County Board of Health secured an Ohio 319 grant in 2010. The City of Hudson also provided funding. Construction was successfully completed in 2012 with students participating in planting native shrubs and trees and conducting baseline stream assessments. Students have continued to collect data to document the changes in the tributary.

The "Hudson Land Lab" exists today as a direct result of Chris' effort and is providing the instructional and environmental benefits that she envisioned so many years ago.

We strongly support the nomination of Christine DiCato-Thaxton for this award.

For the entire Hudson City Council,

President of Council
December 1, 2015