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Testimonial – Regional Breakthroughs and Ms Connie Woodberry

It is my considerable pleasure to comment on the success of Regional Breakthroughs and Ms Connie Woodberry in their work on the Concept to Creation (C2C) program in northern Adelaide.

The Flinders Institute for Housing, Urban and Regional Research was contracted to undertake an independent and objective evaluation of the C2C program and of its administering organisation, the Northern Advanced Manufacturing Industry Group (NAMIG). Regional Breakthroughs, via Ms Woodberry, was the driving force behind NAMIG, serving as Chief Executive Officer and a major catalyst for change.

Our independent evaluation found that NAMIG and the C2C was an unquestioned success: it encouraged greater numbers of Year 10 students to continue with science and maths subjects; it increased awareness of employment opportunities within the region; it reduced absenteeism and it had a positive impact on the attitudes of students in continuing their education. Importantly, our data suggest that enrolments in Year 11 and Year 12 Science and Maths subjects have grown over the last two years, reversing a significant downward trend amongst the schools that participated in the project.

In my opinion Ms Connie Woodberry and Regional Breakthroughs were fundamental to the success of NAMIG and the C2C program. Ms Woodberry provided much of the intellectual and organisational drive for this very important initiative. Her work was essential to the achievement of performance targets and ensuring that students received high quality industry and educational experiences. By observation I also know that she displayed considerable ability in working with key stakeholders across a number of sectors – schools, government, the private sector and other non government agencies – and served as a genuine change facilitator. The long term impact of her contribution to NAMIG – and the northern region of Adelaide – will be considerable. I believe many regions would receive substantial benefits from learning from Ms Woodberry and Regional Breakthroughs as she has pioneered a path to a better educational future for today's youth and it is a path that will help reduce the skills shortages that confront many parts of our economy.

Yours faithfully

Professor Andrew Beer

inspiring
achievement