

# MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Excellence and Equity For All Children*

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September 22, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As Superintendent of the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools, it gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support for the Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative (MVYLI), whose mission is to train young people to become leaders in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

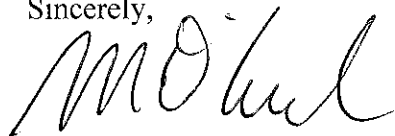
MVYLI's expanded year-round program focused on *Career Mentoring & Job Shadow Day* is a welcome asset to help prepare students for today's jobs and careers. Throughout the years, they have developed several major projects that have benefited the Vineyard community, one of them being the *Global Technology Initiative*. Kevin McGrath, Director of MVRHS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center, is helping champion this prototype.

We are grateful the Institute is collaborating with the Leadership Class at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School to help model this online learning portal – connecting our students with other island youth -- creating a *Global Action Learning Community*.

MVYLI is very much aligned with my 5-year plan for the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools. In the past, our students have greatly benefitted from MVYLI's emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving, expanding their horizons and helping them think about their future. I am especially pleased to see this year's focus on writing and how the *Youth Leadership Summit*, including the Ghandi Youth Forum, had such a powerful impact on our young people.

MVYLI is offered free to all Vineyard youth and is an important component to their education. They have helped catalyze significant financial support for youth across the island, and they now need our collective support to help realize their goals and reach many more students. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matthew T. D'Andrea, LP.D.  
Superintendent of Schools