



November 10, 2014

Dear District Partners,

Your district high school students are cordially invited to participate in the **17th Annual Oakland Schools Global Trade Mission**.

As Oakland Schools celebrates our sixteenth year of Global Trade Mission (GTM) we are reminded of the tremendous impact GTM has had throughout Oakland County. Since 1998 more than 2,800 high-school students have acquired the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's dynamic world economy. Each year approximately 150 students engage in an intensive, three-day, hands-on virtual learning experience that simulates an entrepreneurial and business international trade mission. Through this extraordinary opportunity, **students are connected to exciting career opportunities** in entrepreneurial and international business within emerging and high-tech industries; many in the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

Our business and industry partners provide the necessary connection to make the experience real. Through broadened career awareness the student connection to career readiness and global expectations is heightened. Team challenges are organized around the various career pathways available in industry; providing outcomes in student learning that will more closely match the surrounding market. Business coaches and cultural presenters are available in person and via the internet to strengthen the student awareness. This distinctive style of learning helps to connect the student to the world around them while **preparing them for post-secondary choices** in their future.

A former GTM student reports, "I can't tell you how many times I've used my GTM experience during my college classes this year. I will be declaring my major this semester, International Relations. I just wanted to pass along a note thanking you guys for everything. **The Global Trade Mission has really helped shape what my future will hold.** Thinking back, I didn't even have an interest, or knowledge of foreign trade, and now I am studying it in college."

I encourage you and your students to participate in this three-day event, **March 5 – March 7, 2015 at Oakland Community College**. Please share this opportunity with your staff and encourage them to visit **Oakland Schools GTM 2015** at www.myglobeislocal.org for more information!

Contact **GTMteam@myglobeislocal.org** for additional information about Oakland Schools Global Trade Mission, event highlights and registration details. **Space is limited; early registration is recommended.**

Sincerely,



Vickie L. Markavitch, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Oakland Schools

