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For Immediate Release

**TRAWICK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
\$150,000 GRANT AWARD
TO CONNECT CROSS SECTION OF RISING 9TH GRADERS**

Nonprofits Collaborate with Watkins Mill High School

The Trawick Foundation is pleased to announce \$150,000 grant award to fund a pilot project for rising 9th graders at Watkins Mill High School.

The “Youth Summit Project” will prepare 90 incoming 9th grade students to enter Watkins Mill High School (WMHS). The cross section of students from two feeder middle schools will participate in a summer “bridge” program to create a peer support network, familiarize students with policies and with student supports at WMHS, teach key skills for success, and engage and educate parents about how to help their teenager. The yearlong follow-on program will reinforce the building of relationships and development of skills.

“Connection. It is all about keeping the students comfortable and connected in the school setting and thus preventing a disconnect.” said Carol Trawick, Foundation President. “We are pleased to invest in a high school with a principal willing to involve other resources to develop proactive strategies to keep youth engaged in school.”

This new initiative was conceived by WMHS Principal Carol Goddard with the objective of improving the academic and behavioral outcomes for a diverse group of incoming 9th graders. To develop the concept, Ms. Goddard collaborated over a two month period with her nonprofit partners: the Latin American Youth Organization (LAYC), YMCA Youth and Family Services, and Identity along with Rec Zone, a Montgomery County Department of Recreation program.