

This idea has been proven to work and comes to you from the Ripley Union Lewis Huntington School District, (RULH). The RULH School District and the Brown County Educational Service Center are working together to help children in the second grade all over Brown and part of Highland County dream about going to college. The I Know I Can Foundation in Columbus, Ohio sells the I Know I Can books at a nominal fee. Kristi Scott, OACHE advisor for Adams, Brown and Highland Counties, distributes these books as gifts to children who come to hear her presentation. A grant from the National Corporation of Service Learning sponsors this and other efforts related to career development, character education and service learning for students in grades k-12. I Know I Can is a warm, intelligent book for children of all ages. It helps them connect their world with a wider one in a creative fun way. I Know I Can is an excellent vehicle for helping children and their families appreciate the importance of a college education. The book sends several strong messages about finding your niche, establishing a goal then begin to plan, learn and prepare for your future. I Know I Can makes college a realistic goal for everyone.

Ms. Scott is one of the founders of the YouCAN Foundation, (You Can Achieve Now), which makes post-secondary education possible by providing motivational programming, financial aid counseling, and last dollar scholarship available to students in the RULH School District. This year the YouCAN Foundation will give over \$7,000.00 in local dollars to students in the graduating class of 2008. The strategy behind both of these endeavors is to improve the educational level of those living in our area and thus create a stronger more vibrant community.

If you are interested in replicating either of these projects or would like to know more about what we are doing to improve the education levels of the RULH students, you may contact Kristi Scott at 937-392-4224 or email her at kristiscott@sbcglobal.net