An open letter to the Corry community:

Dear Corry,

I believe in you.

I have never stopped believing in you as a born, raised, educated, departed and returned member of the Corry community. Today I write to you to ask for your help in creating what’s next for our city.

“What’s next?”

Two simple words. Two simple words that can inspire, motivate and drive perseverance ahead through the next set of challenges that lies before us. Corry, your ‘what’s next’ moment has arrived.

I am an active champion on the Activate our City Center subcommittee for the Corry Community Strategic Planning Committee. My involvement with the organization is both personal and professional. The Activate City Center group has been tasked with championing improvements to the Center/Main Street business district and surrounding city entrance corridors. The objectives of the committee are to create a vibrant, attractive area for locals (and visitors) to live, work and play. Activate City Center is also striving to cultivate supportive growth opportunities for small business entrepreneurship and industry through workforce training and education. Our Center/Main business district acts as the geographic center of the community and is the heartbeat of our city.

Corry’s greatest asset is its people. You work hard and love hard. Each one of us has a stake in the work of today for the promise of tomorrow. For me, it’s personal. I still remember the pain felt by myself, my parents and my friends having to move away to seek employment opportunities. I also vividly recall traveling to my now in-laws in Clymer to use their broadband internet to complete my college assignments. Or having to load the entire family into the car to drive to Erie to dine/shop because similar services or amenities were not available in town. Corry deserves opportunity, connectivity and the chance to compete. Corry deserves more.

The Corry Higher Education Council recently completed its 2020-2024 strategic plan, some of which will focus on strategies to improve the community’s workforce readiness, provide upskill training and development of digital literacy programs. The Council’s pledge to the community is that if you help build our city center, Corry Hi-Ed will help you maintain it. Today I ask for your assistance in becoming the architects and engineers of your city’s development plan.

So Corry, what’s next? Will you please join us?

#PositivelyCorry,

Brody Howard

Brody Howard is the executive director of the Corry Higher Education Council. He is a proud member of the Corry Area High School class of 2003.