

The State of Illinois
RACE TO THE TOP

APPLICATION FOR INITIAL FUNDING

APPENDICES
JANUARY 19, 2010

Volume II

APPENDIX VOLUME II

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Appendix A2-8
Letters of Support

Teachers Unions

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Illinois Education Association (IEA)	IEA is an association of more than 133,000 Illinois elementary and secondary teachers, higher education faculty and staff, educational support professionals, retired educators, and college students preparing to become teachers. The IEA is committed to serving the interest of public education in Illinois and effecting excellence and equity in public education as an advocacy organization for all public education employees.	-Support the organization's local associations who have agreed to participate in Illinois' Race to the Top proposal. -Work collaboratively to develop and implement local education improvement plans.
Illinois Federation of Teachers	The Illinois Federation of Teachers represents 103,000 men and women who are teachers and paraprofessionals in school districts throughout Illinois, faculty and staff at Illinois' community colleges and universities, public employees under every statewide elected constitutional officer, and retirees.	-Participate in state-level work to implement Race to the Top activities in collaboration with ISBE and other education stakeholders. -Work with local unions to provide information and assistance on Race to the Top Initiatives at the district level.

Other Role-based Education Stakeholders

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS)	IARSS is dedicated to supporting the role of regional superintendents, assistant superintendents, and offices of education in Illinois. IARSS supports the efforts of school administrators to promote quality education for the students and citizens of Illinois, to provide educational leadership, to impact public policy, and to deliver educational services effectively for the benefit of Illinois school districts, other educational entities, and educational system clients.	-Work as a Lead Partner or Supporting Partner in the Illinois Partnership Zone, assisting low-performing schools. -Partner with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) on the development and implementation of the state's proposed reforms and programs.
Illinois Association of School Business Officials (Illinois ASBO)	Illinois ASBO is devoted to the school business management profession and strives to promote the standards of school business administration through benefits to members including: job placement assistance, student scholarships, publications, professional development, and legislative involvement.	-Collaborate with ISBE and other stakeholders and legislators to develop and communicate educational policies. -Work with ISBE and other committees and task forces such as the Education Stakeholders, Illinois Education Roundtable, P-20 Council, and Performance Evaluation Advisory Council in recommending educational legislation, regulations, procedures, and practices. -Work to maintain the focus of policymakers and legislators on the need for ongoing funding for education.

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Illinois Alliance of Administrators for Special Education (IAASE)	The IAASE is a non-profit corporation organized to promote quality education for all students and provide an organizational structure through which students with disabilities are represented at a local, state and national level.	-Provide effective support to teachers and principals. -Provide intensive educator support focused on students' critical transition points.
Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA)	State-wide association representing school and district administrators.	-Work collectively and collaboratively with ISBE and all education stakeholders on behalf of Illinois school communities. -Continue to lead and participate in meetings, committees and task forces, such as the Education Stakeholders Meeting, IASA/ISBE Advisory Committee, P-20 Council and Performance Evaluation Advisory Council.
Illinois Association of School Business Officials (Illinois ASBO)	Illinois ASBO is devoted to the school business management profession and strives to promote the standards of school business administration through benefits to members including: job placement assistance, student scholarships, publications, professional development, and legislative involvement.	-Collaborate with ISBE and other stakeholders and legislators to develop and communicate educational policies. -Work with ISBE and other committees and task forces such as the Education Stakeholders, Illinois Education Roundtable, P-20 Council, and Performance Evaluation Advisory Council in recommending educational legislation, regulations, procedures, and practices. -Work to maintain the focus of policymakers and legislators on the need for ongoing funding for education.

Funders

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
The Chicago Community Trust—Race to the Top Collaborative Fund	The Chicago Community Trust is a community foundation, built by generations of Chicagoans to support a safe, health, and productive future for every resident. In 2008, the Trust and its donors granted more than \$100 million to sustain effective, innovative programs throughout metropolitan Chicago. The fund is directed at supporting education, as well as arts and culture, basic human needs, community development, and health.	-The 18 foundation members of The Race to the Top Initiative—a short-term collaborative fund of the Chicago Community Foundation—are providing a grant to develop Illinois' Race to the Top application and are committed to continued collaboration with the state for the long-term improvement of education in Illinois.

Advocacy and Education Partner Organizations

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Advance Illinois	Advance Illinois is an advocacy group with bipartisan political leadership and a board of business and community leaders, policy experts, and educators. The group seeks to act as an objective voice to promote a public education system in Illinois that prepares all students for college, work, and democratic citizenship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Play a continuing role in the state's plan to overhaul the teacher evaluation system. -Continue supporting the state's efforts to use data to inform instruction and school improvement and play a central role in developing the Learning and Performance Management System for data management. -Work to develop the Kindergarten Readiness standard in partnership with leaders such as An Ounce of Prevention and the Erikson Institute.
Board of Education of the City of Chicago	The Chicago Board of Education is responsible for the governance, organizational and financial oversight of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the third largest school district in the United States of America. It establishes policies, standards, goals and initiatives to ensure accountability and provide a high quality, world-class education for the 21 st century that prepares students for success in college, work and life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to partner with the State to pursue reform initiatives in CPS, including closing or turning around underperforming schools. -Work with CPS teachers and administrators and private sector partners to open new schools, create more choice for families in historically underserved neighborhoods, and use student growth data to measure teacher and principal performance.
ED-RED	ED-RED is an advocacy organization committed to service as "the voice of suburban schools" in Illinois. ED-RED monitors and actively influences education policy at the state level, with a focus on issues that affect its member school districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support the development of a statewide longitudinal data system. -Support and pursue the Common Core standards.
Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE)	<p>ILCAE is a state-wide organization of individuals representing all segments of the agricultural industry to provide statewide leadership to improve education in and about agriculture.</p> <p>The council serves as an advocate for agricultural educators at the local and state levels and seeks to involve the agricultural industry in the assessment of agricultural education and in developing quality instructional programs and processes to meet current and future needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to work with the State in supporting STEM-related Programs of Study in agriculture and natural resources. -Work cooperatively with other STEM Learning Exchanges in supporting the growth of STEM-related Programs of Study throughout Illinois.
Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC)	ISTC cultivates economic development in Illinois by increasing resources for research and development (R&D) initiatives at Illinois-based institutions and businesses. ISTC is active in the industries of advanced manufacturing, agriculture, energy, information technology, life sciences, and	-Serve as a partner in implementing the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout Illinois.

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
	supercomputing.	
Illinois Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics (TDL) Task Force	<p>The Illinois TDL Task Force is devoted to developing recommendations for addressing the causes of worker shortages in transportation and logistics.</p> <p>The task force focuses on the workforce challenges that threaten Illinois' transportation and logistics industry and require state level action.</p>	<p>-Serve as a partner in planning and implementation of the NCRC and STEM-related programs of study throughout the state.</p> <p>-Serve as a partner in planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for transportation, distribution, and logistics.</p> <p>-Support the development of STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.</p>
Interactive Illinois Report Card	<p>Interactive Illinois Report Card is a program of Northern Illinois University that publishes test results and other school improvement information for Illinois schools online, so that the information is available and accessible to the public.</p>	<p>-Assist with developing and hosting the array of improved school performance benchmarks, assessments, and performance measures on the organization's existing user-friendly website.</p> <p>-Provide necessary technical assistance in the implementation of the student data system with classroom applications for teachers and administrators.</p> <p>-Assist in developing workshops, professional development programs, and on-line resources to support Race to the Top initiatives.</p>
Large Urban District Association (LUDA)	<p>Represents the interests of the 55 largest districts in the state; 44 are participating LEAs for the RTTT proposal.</p>	<p>-Coordinate RTTT participation of member districts</p> <p>-Communicate about RTTT with member districts</p>
Ounce of Prevention Fund	<p>The Ounce of Prevention Fund strives to give children who were born into poverty a chance for success in school and in life by investing in children in the earliest weeks, months, and years of their lives.</p> <p>The Ounce is committed to four key goals: providing direct services to at-risk children and their families from birth to age 5, training early childhood professionals across the state, conducting research and incorporating it into programs, and advocating for sound public policies and sustained funding streams.</p>	<p>-Support the development and implementation of the Kindergarten Readiness Measure to promote instructional alignment from Pre-K through third grade.</p> <p>-Actively participate as a partner in planning Kindergarten Readiness Assessments.</p> <p>-Serve as an active resource for professional training and development and an ex-officio member of the P-20 Council.</p>

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Parents & Residents Invested in School and Education Reform Coalition (PRISE)	PRISE is a community-based organization of parents and residents invested in promoting education reforms in low-performing Illinois schools and increasing family and community involvement in local school systems.	-Support programs to increase parent and community engagement and social support for the most challenged low-performing schools.
The Alternative Schools Network of Chicago (ASN)	ASN is an association of 52 community-based education agencies in Chicago. Since 1973, ASN has been an advocate for community-based services with an emphasis on involving community members as active participants in developing and running programs. ASN is committed to working to promote quality education, with a specific emphasis on inner-city children, youth, and adults.	-Support the Dropout-Prevention and Re-Enrollment Support components of the State's proposal, with a focus on increasing graduation rates and helping youth who are now on the streets return to school.
Voices for Illinois Children	Voices for Illinois Children champions the full development of every child in Illinois to assure the future well-being of everyone in the state. The organization works with families, communities, and policymakers to help children grow up healthy, happy, safe, loved, and well-educated.	-Serve on Illinois' P-20 Council. -Advocate for the full development, best use, and proper monitoring of Kindergarten-readiness measures and longitudinal, data-sharing processes. -Advocate for additional local, state, and federal funding to support educational priorities. -Build public awareness of and support for the State's Race to the Top initiatives and goals.

Higher Education Institutions

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI)	ACI is a group of 23 private colleges and universities, rooted in the liberal arts tradition, that leverages the expertise of a statewide network to provide underserved students with new educational opportunities. ACI is committed to engaging college, business, and community leaders to address three key areas: enhancing teaching and learning in K-12 schools serving at-risk children, raising graduation and college entrance rates among at-risk students, and improving the chances of college success for first-generation, low-income, and minority students.	-Host LEAs to operate six-week High-Need Schools Internships—intensive summer experiences that prepare and position pre-service teachers to maintain ongoing relationships with host LEAs. Internship participants will also be encouraged to complete student teaching and assume permanent teaching positions in the LEAs in which they serve as interns.
Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR) at the University of Chicago, Urban	The CCSR at the University of Chicago conducts research of high technical quality that can inform and assess policy and practice in the Chicago Public Schools. CCSR seeks to expand	-Work as an active partner on the proposed Illinois Collaborative for Education Policy Research (ICEPR), an innovative state research and development partnership modeled directly after CCSR's work and

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Education Institute	communication among researchers, policy makers, and practitioners, and to support the search for solutions to the problems of school reform.	experience in Chicago.
Erikson Institute	The Erikson Institute is a premier graduate school in child development. It also focuses on applied research, providing clinical services to families, participating in a wide range of community engagement initiatives, and collaborating to improve and expand services from school districts and public agencies.	-Support the implementation of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. -Support the implementation of the K – Grade 3 professional development program.
Forum on the Future of Public Education and The College of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a premier public university in Illinois, and its College of Education is a hub of educational research, scholarship, and training. The Forum on the Future of Public Education draws on a network of scholars at the University of Illinois and beyond to create, interpret, and disseminate credible information on key questions in educational policy.	-Assist in establishing and participate as a partner in the ICEPR. -Combine ICEPR with Illinois' integrated data management system to identify leaks in educational pipelines and determine the most effective interventions. -Assist in developing an aggressive agenda, including drafting a state educational research agenda and assessing the data analysis capacity of Illinois school districts.
Illinois Education Research Council (IERC) at Southern Illinois University	IERC was established at Southern Illinois University to provide Illinois with educational research and support education policy-making and program development. The IERC conducts independent research and policy analysis and brings objective and reliable evidence to the work of state policymakers and practitioners.	-Update and refine the IERC Index of Teacher Academic Capital to analyze the equitable distribution of highly effective teachers and principals throughout the state. -Participate in the Educational Research Collaborative Steering Committee and Board. -Continue to serve on the Technical Advisory Group for the Illinois Longitudinal Data System.
National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	The NCSA provides powerful computers and expert support to help thousands of scientists across the country conduct research and gather and process data. For more than 20 years, NCSA has been a leader in deploying robust high-performance computing resources and in working with research and education communities to develop new computing and software technologies. The NCSA considers education to be a top priority and is committed to bringing computing and computation in the classroom to help students understand scientific concepts and bridge the gap between research and education.	-Acquire, deploy, and operate an internet-based ("cloud computing") system for the Learning and Performance Management System (LPMS), and develop and re-tool existing software applications needed to analyze educational data. -Contribute to the design of the LPMS. -Partner with Illinois high schools to create the "Blue Wave in Science Education in Illinois" teaching program, modeled after a previous concept used in teaching chemistry and extended to all areas of science. The model will be implemented as part of the STEM Learning Exchange and includes a robust professional development component for teachers.

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
		-Develop a platform for a competition where students of all achievement levels compete and collaborate virtually on computational projects across STEM disciplines in partnership with researchers and industry.
School of Education, Loyola University Chicago	Loyola University Chicago is the nation's largest Jesuit, Catholic university. The School of Education is dedicated to continuing the Jesuit tradition of uplifting people through education, regardless of race or religion. Loyola's community of educators is committed to serving as role models of scholarship and promoting social justice in education.	-Support the implementation of the Improving Effectiveness of Teacher and Principal Preparation program. -Support the implementation of the statewide Longitudinal Data System. -Support the implementation of enhanced standards and high quality assessments of teachers and administrators.
School of Education, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE)	The School of Education at SIUE is committed to pursuing key goals including offering high quality programs for its students, exceptional service to the community, and cutting-edge research that informs policy and practice. The School is also committed to forming partnerships with a variety of educational, service, and business entities in order to advance research and innovative practices across a broad spectrum of professions and community organizations.	-Reform and redesign administrator preparation. -Develop successful pathways for teacher certification to non-traditional students in critical needs areas such as early childhood education and secondary education. -Collect and disseminate data related to graduate satisfaction and success in the classroom. -Support the revision of Illinois teaching standards. -Serve on the State's Leadership to Integrate the Learning Continuum Advisory Committee, Illinois New Teacher Collaborative Partnership Board, Associate of Arts in Teaching Steering Committee, and Charter School Authorizer Task Force. -Operate a STEM Center on campus and participate in STEM Learning Exchanges.

State Agencies

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Illinois Board of Higher Education	Plans and coordinates Illinois' system of colleges and universities.	- Pledge to continue developing with you and the education community the culture of evidence that is required to measure progress toward the goals of RTTT.
Illinois Community College Board	The Illinois Community College Board is the state coordinating board for community colleges. The Board works with all groups within the community college system to establish policies necessary to implement state statutes.	-Support the implementation of college and career-ready standards, high quality evaluation and assessment of teachers and administrators, and college and career data systems.
Illinois Department of Commerce and	DCEO administers a wide array of programs and services for Illinois	-Serve as a partner in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Economic Opportunity (DCEO)	businesses including services in business development, community development, energy and recycling, technology, tourism, trade, workforce development, and entrepreneurship.	Exchanges for all STEM areas. -Work with public and private partners to plan and implement the Energy Learning Exchange.

Business/Civic Organizations

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce	The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit business assistance and economic development organization dedicated to enhancing its members' success through aggressive programs in advocacy, member benefits, services, and information. The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce has operated educational programs such as Future Founders, College Access Network, and School-to-Work.	-Engage industry sector committees in STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanded internship and career development opportunities for students. -Host an employer discussion of the NCRC. -Help establish a statewide program for students to obtain the NCRC to increase numbers of job-ready students and make NCRC an important credential for a wide range of careers.
Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (iBio)	iBio is a life sciences industry association composed of a wide range of companies and business leaders. iBIO's mission is to make Illinois and the surrounding Midwest one of the world's top life sciences centers. iBIO advocates for sound public policy, delivers education and training programs, and improves Illinois' ability to create, attract, and retain businesses.	-Partner with the State on the Illinois Innovation Talent program, a STEM-focused, industry-led pilot program. -Serve as a partner in planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for health sciences and agriculture and natural resources. -Grow and leverage existing programs such as SCI: Science Career Investigation and TalentSparks! teacher professional development in biotechnology. -Support the development of STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC)	MCHC is a membership and service association comprising more than 140 hospitals and health care organizations working together to improve the delivery of health care services in the Chicago area. The Council's membership consists of hospitals, physician groups, nursing homes, outpatient treatment centers, insurers, medical schools, and other health care organizations.	-Assist in implementation of the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout Illinois. -Partner with the State in implementation of the STEM Learning Exchanges in health sciences. -Support the development of STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
		programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.
The Illinois Business Roundtable	Illinois Business Roundtable is a voluntary association of 63 chief executive officers of Illinois' leading businesses, formed to make recommendations and take action on critical public policy issues facing Illinois.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Partner with the State to implement the NCRC program. -Participate in NCRC-related career development for students. -Work to promote NCRC as a tool for verification of workplace skills. -Support STEM Learning Exchange activities by contributing to professional development programs and developing opportunities for students to transmit job applications and receive information through STEM Learning Exchanges. -Provide staff for statewide implementation and support of STEM Learning Exchanges.

Business and Industry Leaders

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Astellas Pharma US, Inc.	Astellas Pharma US, Inc., is the U.S. affiliate of Japan's second-largest pharmaceutical company. The company's North American headquarters is located in Deerfield, Illinois. In the U.S., Astellas is intensely focused on cardiology, dermatology, immunology, infectious disease, and urology. Astellas is also committed to advancements within the field of oncology and other emerging therapeutic areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Serve as a partner to implement the NCRC Program and STEM-related Programs of Study. -Serve as a partner in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for health sciences.
AT&T	AT&T is one of the world's leading producers of entertainment and communications products and services. The company's mission is to connect people and businesses to their world, everywhere they live and work.	-Work with the State and other stakeholders to implement Race to the Top initiatives, particularly STEM-related programs and the NCRC program.
Baxter International, Inc.	Baxter is a global healthcare company that assists healthcare professionals and their patients with treatment of complex medical conditions including hemophilia, immune disorders, kidney disease, trauma and other conditions. Baxter applies its expertise in medical devices, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology to make a meaningful difference in patients' lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue the <i>Science @ Work: Expanding Minds with Real-World Science</i> program launched in 2008 in partnership with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Renaissance Schools Fund, and the Illinois Institute of Technology. The program aims at providing enhanced biotechnology science education opportunities to CPS students and teachers. -Assist in implementation of the NCRC and STEM-related Programs of Study. -Help plan and implement STEM Learning Exchanges for Health Science.

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support the development of STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.
BNSF Railway	<p>BNSF Railway ships coal, agricultural products, consumer goods, and industrial products. BNSF Railway focuses on using speed, agility, and resourcefulness to help expand the global marketplace for goods and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Serve as a partner in planning and implementing STEM Learning Exchanges in transportation, distribution, and logistics.
IBM	<p>IBM is a global leader in the information technology industry. IBM's corporate citizenship activities focus on developing initiatives to address specific societal issues, such as the environment, community economic development, education, health, literacy, language, and culture. IBM is committed to creating innovative programs in these areas to assist communities around the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Collaborate to foster STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the State.
Microsoft Corporation	<p>Microsoft is a global leader in the information technology industry. The corporation is dedicated to using technology to effect societal change, including improving education, particularly in math and science. Microsoft works with partners around the world to invest in education IT infrastructure and personalized learning experiences for students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Serve as a partner to implement the NCRC Program and STEM-related Programs of Study. -Serve as a partner in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for information technology. -Support the development of STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.
Northrop Grumman	<p>Northrop Grumman Corporation is a leading global security company whose 120,000 employees provide innovative systems, products, and solutions in aerospace, electronics, information systems, shipbuilding, and technical services to government and commercial customers worldwide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contribute to professional development programs. -Collaborate to develop real-world interdisciplinary problems for students. -Develop opportunities for students to transmit job applications and receive information about career opportunities through STEM Learning Exchanges.
Rico Enterprises, Inc.	<p>Rico Enterprises provides technology solutions for government, businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations. The company's core services are technology sales, service, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continue to serve on the Illinois P-20 Council and Illinois Workforce Investment Board's IT Workforce Task Force. Work to guide state efforts to build an education and workforce development system and

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
	consulting.	longitudinal data system. -Support the development of STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.
Takeda Pharmaceuticals	Takeda is a research-based global pharmaceutical company. Takeda is committed to striving toward better health for individuals and progress in medicine by developing superior pharmaceutical products.	-Support the NCRC and STEM-related Programs of Study.

Professional and Trade Associations and Other Unions

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP)	CSCMP is a worldwide professional organization of supply chain management professionals. CSCMP provides leadership, education, networking, research, communication, and other services to enhance the supply chain management profession.	-Support implementation of the NCRC Program. -Assist efforts to plan and implement STEM Learning Exchanges for transportation, distribution, and logistics. -Support STEM Learning Exchange activities including development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.
Illinois AFL-CIO	The Illinois AFL-CIO represents one million union members, including three teachers' unions and a school administrator's union. The Illinois AFL-CIO helps improve the lives of working men and women by promoting the rights of workers to join a union and making sure their voices are heard at the state capitol. In addition to a full-time presence in Springfield fighting for strong labor laws, the Illinois AFL-CIO also helps shape political dialog around issues that affect workers.	-Serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of the STEM Learning Exchange for Architecture and Construction. -Support the development of STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.
Illinois Trucking Association (ITA)	ITA is a trade organization dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness of its member companies by advocating sound public policies, and providing excellence in education, training and information while promoting a safe, dependable and cost effective transportation system. ITA is committed to articulating the concerns of the trucking industry to	-Serve as a partner to implement STEM Learning Exchanges for transportation, distribution, and logistics. -Support STEM Learning Exchange activities including development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development

Organization	Overview of Organization	Actions of Support
	government, regulatory bodies and the general public.	opportunities for students.
TechAmerica	TechAmerica is an advocacy organization for the U.S. technology industry. Representing approximately 1,500 member companies of all sizes from the public and commercial sectors of the economy, it is the industry's largest advocacy organization and is dedicated to helping members' top and bottom lines.	<p>-Serve as a partner to implement STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state.</p> <p>-Serve as a partner in planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges in research & development and information technology.</p> <p>-Support STEM Learning Exchange activities including development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.</p>
Tooling & Manufacturing Association (TMA)	<p>TMA supports industry by providing educational opportunities, industry representation, and services to foster member company global competitiveness.</p> <p>TMA helps member companies train and educate personnel, provides information and assistance, pools the purchasing power of member companies, represents and promotes the interests of member companies, serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, and fosters a sense of mutual support and unity among the members.</p>	<p>-Serve as a partner to implement the NCRC and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state.</p> <p>-Serve as a partner to planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges in manufacturing and transportation, distribution, and logistics.</p> <p>-Support STEM Learning Exchange activities including development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and internship and career development opportunities for students.</p>



FIFTY YEARS 1959|2009

Jon L. Erickson
Senior Vice President
Educational Services

January 15, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of ACT, am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

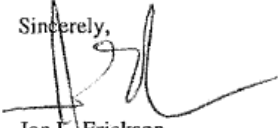
ACT's research agenda over the last decade has been focused on the issues of college and career readiness and success. Our findings reinforce the need to raise expectations and achievement for all students. Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, ACT intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan:

- Developing and Adopting Common Standards
- Establishing new capacities to assist LEAs with the adoption an implementation of Assessments for Learning
- Building off the strengths of the current State high school assessment to promote alignment of middle and high school instruction with college- and work-ready expectation
- Establishing a Statewide career readiness certificate program validating student readiness for the workplace
- Implementing a statewide longitudinal data system
- Supporting research initiatives such as the Index of Teacher Academic Capital
- Conducting workshops and providing resources to support professional development initiatives for teachers and principals
- Implementing the Illinois Partnership Zone initiative, one of the four proposed school intervention models

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,



Jon L. Erickson
Senior Vice President
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January 13, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

Advance Illinois would like to express strong support for the comprehensive education reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top ("RTTT") application.

As you know, our advocacy group represents a broad range of Illinoisans, with bipartisan political leadership (co-chaired by former Gov. Jim Edgar and former Secretary of Commerce Bill Daley) and a board of business leaders, community leaders, policy experts and educators. We have recommended Illinois enact many of the reforms called for in RTTT and endorse the state's efforts wholeheartedly.

These reforms will transform the state's schools, replacing an input-driven, compliance-focused system that is failing with an outcome-based, results-oriented system that helps prepare every child in the state to be world-ready.

We offer our continued support in many of the areas of the application. In particular, we offer to continue playing a role in your plan to overhaul the teacher evaluation system in the state. Your plan, as embodied in Senate Bill 315 passed in January, sets Illinois on a path to where teachers are no longer treated like widgets, but given the kind of professional feedback and development they deserve. And, by linking student achievement data to their teachers, we can make the best decisions about instruction and staffing. The State Board's work to redesign principal evaluation is also well-judged, as strong leadership is at the heart of every great school. Advance Illinois has commissioned a study by the National Council on Teacher Quality to assess the caliber of our teacher evaluation programs. This process has been in collaboration with the State Board.

We hope to continue supporting the state's efforts to use data to inform instruction and school improvement. In particular, we hope to keep playing a central role on the working group that is developing the Learning and Performance Management System, founded on a cutting-edge, user-friendly data system to drive instruction across the state. If RTTT reforms are enacted and successful, our educators will not only have the data they've been craving on their student's



achievement, but the support, from quality instructional tools and connections to their colleagues facing the same challenges, to use the data. In addition, improved data quality through-out the state will enable us to track progress and indicators to ensure the state is on track to achieve its education goals from Birth through Career.

Indeed, it's important that the state focus on developing standards for kindergarten readiness and college readiness. Advance Illinois is proud to work together on the team developing the kindergarten readiness standard, along with Illinois-based industry leaders such as Ounce of Prevention and the Erikson Institute. Also, we've called for formative assessments to improve instruction and are heartened to see that captured in the Assessments for Learning section of your RTTT application. In addition, a smart, rigorous model for growth is at the heart of a sound accountability system, allowing us to answer the fundamental question of whether our students are improving over the course of a school year, and from year to year.

We are eager to help you and the State Board with the challenging work of turning around our lowest-achieving schools. As the state's strategic partner in the MassInsight pilot project for turnaround schools, we are hopeful that Illinois will be awarded the chance to focus much-needed outside expertise and resources on this issue.

Finally, we congratulate you on the process of the application. By embracing the challenge from the U.S. Department of Education to fully engage our state stakeholders, you have built a robust plan that will endure changes in leadership, be they at the state, district or school level. This process has brought together all of us who have been working so long to rebuild our state's education system. By working as a team, we believe a new day has dawned, and that Illinois can fulfill its promise to educate all of its children, and prepare them well for the challenges they'll face as adults.

We stand ready to continue working with your office and your strong, progressive team at the State Board. We are eager to keep up the constructive dialogue that has driven this process from the start, and to assist in the implementation of a plan that promises to bring so much good to the citizens of our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Steans", written in a cursive style.

Robin Steans
Executive Director
Advance Illinois



*Creating Futures
Every Day*

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Dear Dr. Koch:

The Alternative Schools Network of Chicago (an association of 52 community based education agencies in Chicago) and I, as its representative, are very excited about the Illinois Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT").

We strongly support the Illinois Application and are excited about the opportunity that federal RTTT grant funds will provide to move Illinois forward on very substantive and significant education reforms.

This application will allow Illinois to continue to develop and accelerate its education system to prepare every child in Illinois to enter post-secondary education and eventually the workplace. Particularly, the Illinois RTTT application will help Illinois to address the problems that continue to challenge school districts and schools that are low achieving.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, the Alternative Schools Network intends to support the implementation of the Dropout-Prevention and Re-Enrollment Support component of the Illinois RTTT proposal. With the passage of the Illinois Hope and Opportunities Pathways through Education (IHOPE) and five multi-site high school charters for dropouts in Chicago, Illinois is a strong leader in the country to address the growing crisis of youth who leave school before they earn a high school diploma. The commitment of the Illinois RTTT proposal to allocate \$25 million to this component will significantly help thousands of youth who are now on our streets with no hope to return to school and earn a diploma. Also, this will help the graduation rate in the state and many school districts across the state.

For many youth, returning to school is not just an economic necessity, it has also become a matter of life and death in terms of their needing to leave the streets and find refuge from the violence in their neighborhoods. The Illinois RTTT proposal's commitment to IHOPE is a significant commitment to making a real bridge for thousands of young people to reach a healthy and prosperous adulthood.

Alternative Schools Network
1807 W. Sunnyside Suite 1D
Chicago, IL 60640

Phone: 773-728-4030
Fax : 773-728-3335

I have known President Barack Obama since 1986 when we worked together on developing truancy and dropout re-enrollment programs in Chicago. He and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan have a deep commitment to developing and reaching youth who are out of school that came from their working with youth on the streets of Chicago.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

Jack Wuest
Executive Director
Alternative Schools Network



The Associated
Colleges of Illinois
Established 1952

27 North Wacker Drive
Suite 521
Chicago, Illinois 60606

www.acifund.org

January 14, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

The Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) supports the Illinois State Board of Education's goal of turning around low-performing schools through its Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. On behalf of The Associated Colleges of Illinois, I am excited about the opportunity to address a key Human Capital Strategy: reform district recruitment and hiring policies to support the work of the Illinois State Board of Education by providing participating school districts (LEAs) with a *High-Need Schools Internship* (HNSI) program that develops a pool of highly qualified teachers prepared specifically for those districts.

Immediate benefits to the participating LEA districts include: reducing recruitment costs, relieving teacher shortages, and shrinking attrition rates (and costs) arising from engaging teachers who may not be well prepared or well suited to low performing schools. In addition, *HNSI* advances transformation of teaching to a clinical practice profession, which can result in long-term benefits in the form of a more qualified teacher corps for under performing schools.

ACI will accomplish these goal by partnering its member colleges and universities (IHEs) with host LEAs to operate six-week *High-Need Schools Internships* (HNSIs) -- intensive summer experiences that prepare and position preservice teachers to maintain ongoing relationships with host LEAs, and to complete student teaching and assume teaching positions in the LEAs in which they have served as interns. Designed to advance teaching as a professional practice profession, these internships will 1) actualize the characteristics of clinical practice in the context of Carnegie Corporation's *Teachers for a New Era* (TNE) model for a clinical practice profession (Hinds, 2002); 2) conform to Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching (Danielson, 2007); and 3) combine instruction that addresses in content, pedagogy, and socioeconomic and social-emotional factors with hands-on teaching experience - - to build a new pipeline of preservice teachers prepared both for the challenges of teaching in low performing schools, *and* for the specific cultural, socioeconomic, and intellectual challenges posed by the partner LEAs.

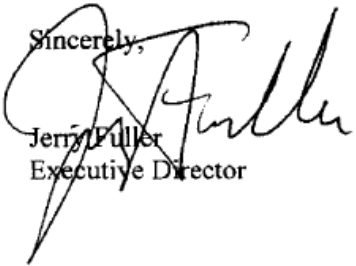
Dr. Christopher Koch
Page 2

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turn around our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

ACI member colleges and universities are committed to the *High-Need Schools Internship* strategy. In addition to the six IHEs with established *HNSIs*, many others are literally clamoring for funding to help launch new *HNSI* sites. The institutional commitment of ACI IHEs to *HNSI* represents a significant resource in support of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Fuller", written over the typed name and title.

Jerry Fuller
Executive Director



January 14, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

On behalf of Astellas I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. At Astellas science is not only the foundation of our business, it's our passion. We are committed to playing an active role in science education and strongly believe that by doing so we can help drive medical innovation in the future. Through RTTT, Illinois can dramatically improve student performance in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines and prepare them to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

Our commitment to the Illinois RTTT application expands upon our long standing commitment to foster science educators' needs and help improve science education within Chicago and the surrounding communities. Astellas strongly supports an emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy.

We believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate, developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study, and building STEM Learning Exchanges. STEM Learning Exchanges, in particular, are important to the success of

Astellas Pharma US, Inc.
Three Parkway North, Deerfield, IL 60015-2537

students because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

We are committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state. Astellas is also willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for health sciences.

We understand that the future of scientific innovation lies in our children and that a child's interest in science is sparked in the classroom. We look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seigo Kashii', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Seigo Kashii
President and CEO
Astellas Pharma US, Inc.



Paul V. La Schiazza
President
AT&T Illinois

225 West Randolph
Floor 27 B
Chicago, IL 60606

T: 312.727.2621
F: 312.558.1210
pl2576@att.com

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity to position Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

I support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers which will ensure the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. I believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application, including: establishing clear college-ready expectations with standardized placement scores, establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), increasing student preparation and rigor in math, and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to help implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

Paul La Schiazza
President - AT&T Illinois

Cc: Eileen Mitchell

Norbert Riedel
Corporate Vice President / Chief Scientific Officer

January 15, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. We believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

As a global corporation that manufactures and markets products that save and sustain lives, Baxter International is committed to helping students become inspired and excited by science. We believe students deserve every opportunity to experience science first hand. And, in connection with talented Baxter professionals, we hope to enable them to advance medicine, technology and engineering for generations to come.

To that end, in 2008 Baxter launched *Science @ Work: Expanding Minds with Real-World Science* in partnership with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Renaissance Schools Fund (RSF) and Illinois Institute of Technology, as a five year, three-part program aimed at providing enhanced biotechnology science education opportunities for CPS students and teachers. In its first year, the program has reached hundreds of teachers and thousands of students with biotechnology curricula.

We support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. We believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

Baxter Healthcare Corporation
One Baxter Parkway / Deerfield, Illinois 60015
T 847 948 2000

Norbert Riedel
Corporate Vice President / Chief Scientific Officer

Governor Quinn
Page 2

Through existing partnerships Baxter has with the iBIO Institute, we are committed helping implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study.

We are also willing to help plan and implement STEM Learning Exchanges for Health Sciences where applicable. We are committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers. In our first year working with CPS, we have provided biotechnology education support to more than 24,000 Chicago Public School students and 352 teachers in 109 schools. We look forward to furthering involvement in science education initiatives where Baxter's support can play a role in developing young minds.

We have seen the critical role our corporation plays in furthering educational opportunities, and we look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,



Norbert G. Riedel, Ph.D.
Corporate Vice President
Chief Scientific Officer

Cc: David Miller, iBIO Institute
Valery Gallagher, Baxter Government Affairs and Public Policy

NGR:er

cc: R. Parkinson
D. Scharf



Paul E. Nowicki
Assistant Vice President
Government & Public Policy

BNSF Railway Company
547 West Jackson Blvd., Ste. 1509
Chicago, IL 60661-5717
tel 312-850-5678
fax 312-850-5677
email paul.nowicki@bnsf.com

January 11, 2010

Hon. Pat Quinn
Governor
State of Illinois
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express the strong support of BNSF Railway for the reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. RTTT appears to be an outstanding opportunity for Illinois to improve student performance, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

BNSF especially supports high school reform and improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. The State has clearly identified crucial high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application, including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential, helpful to people seeking careers and to employers. The STEM-related programs of study offer promising approaches for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

BNSF is willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementing STEM Learning Exchanges in the transportation, distribution and logistics area.

I look forward to working with the State to implement RTTT. Please keep me informed of progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

Paul Nowicki

Paul E. Nowicki



Board of Education

CITY OF CHICAGO

125 SOUTH CLARK STREET • 6TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603

TELEPHONE (773) 553-1800
FAX (773) 553-1801

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January 11, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. As Vice-President of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, I am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

In particular, I am pleased to see the extent to which the RTTT proposal supports and aligns with current reform initiatives in the Chicago Public Schools. This includes closing or turning around underperforming schools, working with CPS teachers and administrators and private sector partners to open new schools, creating more choice for parents and guardians in neighborhoods that historically have been served by underperforming schools, and using student growth data to measure teacher and principal performance. Much of our work has been done with local funds. We view the Illinois RTTT proposal as an important source of additional funding that will allow us to improve and expand these programs.

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
January 11, 2010
Page 2

At the same time that we look forward to the continued development of these programs in Chicago, we also believe that the knowledge and experience we have gained over the past several years will be of significant value to Illinois as it implements similar strategies at the state level. We look forward to partnering with ISBE in the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,



Clare Muñana
Vice President

Cc: Jesse Ruiz
Ron Huberman



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- Terry Mazany
President & CEO

January 15, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

We are writing to applaud you for your efforts to secure funding from the U.S. Department of Education's "Race to the Top" ("RTTT") Fund. We are excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant would provide to help the State of Illinois make some needed reforms to improve education. The sorely needed resources will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system, from preschool to high school, which will prepare each and every child in Illinois for success in postsecondary education and the workforce and to lead a productive life.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by assuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders; by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes; by supporting the development of effective principals and teachers; and, by providing supports to turn around our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes will succeed in postsecondary education and careers and will become a productive citizen.

The 18 members of The Race to the Top Initiative – a short-term collaborative fund of The Chicago Community Foundation—have already demonstrated our financial support to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for this important endeavor by providing a grant to develop this application. The foundations remain committed to continued conversations with the state to share ideas and strategies for the long-term improvement of education in Illinois.

On behalf of The Race to the Top Initiative collaborative fund, we look forward to continuing this partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education to improve education for all children.

Sincerely,

Nora Moreno Cargie
Director of Global Citizenship
The Boeing Company Charitable Trust
Co-chair, Illinois Race to the Top Initiative

Gudelia López
Senior Program Officer
Chicago Community Trust
Co-chair, Illinois Race to the Top Initiative

January 8, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601



Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application on behalf of the 2,600 members of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. Many of our members have served on advisory groups and participated in discussions that have shaped this application.

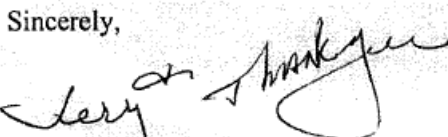
We believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

We support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. The Chicagoland Chamber has operated Future Founders, College Access Network and School-To-Work along with our members participating in many other in-school and out-of-school support programs. The Chamber has industry sector committees that are willing to become active in STEM Learning Exchanges activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students. We are definitely ready to participate in TDL, IT, and Energy. All of these efforts would be greatly enhanced with the implementation of the high school reform initiatives in the Illinois RTTT application.

On February 3, the Chamber is hosting an employer discussion of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). We expect that establishing a statewide program for students to obtain the NCRC will increase the numbers ready for a modern global economy and the NCRC will become an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers.

We look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application.

Sincerely,


Gerald J. Roper
President & CEO



Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Chris:

I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for Illinois's Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. On behalf of the Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR) at the University of Chicago, I am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides for the State of Illinois to move forward on a set of groundbreaking education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

CCSR will work to support the implementation of a number of components of the state's plan including its efforts to develop data systems to support instruction, produce and support great teachers and leaders, and turn around the state's lowest achieving schools. Specifically, CCSR will work as an active partner on the proposed Illinois Collaborative for Education Policy Research (ICEPR), an innovative state research and development partnership modeled directly on the experience of CCSR in Chicago. We believe the ICEPR will play a crucial role in shaping the state's learning about the implementation of RTTT priorities, help communicate these findings widely to key stakeholders in the state and assist practitioners in developing their own research capacity for data collection and analysis.

Our work in Chicago teaches us that careful, rigorous research on key policy priorities—research that is grounded in the problems practitioners face—can effectively build the capacity of education systems to improve over time. We are confident such a model can work equally well in a state committed to the kinds of far reaching reforms described in the Illinois plan.

We look forward to enthusiastically partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms.

Sincerely,

Penny Bender Sebring
Interim Co-Executive Director and Founding Director
Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR)
University of Chicago Urban Education Initiative

T 773-702-3364 F 773-702-2010 ccsr.uchicago.edu



January 14, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

This letter comes to you to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

The strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy is of great need. I believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

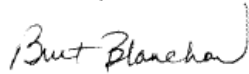
I am committed to support efforts with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state.

I am willing to assist efforts the State enacts in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for transportation, distribution and logistics. Where possible and where we can offer resources, I plan to support STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.



I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Burt Blanchard".

Mr. Burt Blanchard
Director, Business Relations and Solutions
Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals

1131 South Dee Road
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
Voice: 847-692-8048
Fax: 847-696-3254
<http://www.ed-red.org>

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

January 17, 2010

Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. ED-RED is excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms.

Illinois' financial situation will make it difficult to increase funding and necessary support to our districts over the next few years. The RTTT funding is especially important this year. The Illinois State Board of Education and education stakeholders have created a true reform agenda for the State with the support of the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Pat Quinn. The RTTT funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools. Thanks to the agency's leadership, the Illinois General Assembly passed two related pieces of legislation: strengthening the significance of teacher and principal evaluations and expanding the number of entities that can offer alternative certification programs. Both bills were signed into law by Governor Pat Quinn with his strong support. You and your staff successfully negotiated with education stakeholders and legislators and achieved a rare outcome – a collaborative legislative effort. I believe this illustrates the agency's interest in working with stakeholders during the implementation process to ensure our districts have the necessary tools to comply with the agency's vision. ED-RED strongly supports the legislation and will continue to support the agency's reform efforts.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world. In addition to RTTT, ED-RED will continue to support the agency's work to develop a statewide longitudinal data system and pursue the Common Core standards. We are excited about the potential of a data system networking local districts, higher education, and the state agency. This system will provide valuable information to our schools and assist our policy makers in determining priorities. As far as standards, there is much that Illinois can share and learn from other states, and this nationwide effort has tremendous possibilities. Thank you, Dr. Koch, for your leadership in this national effort.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

Erika Lindley
Executive Director

Samuel J. Meisels, President
Irving and Neison Harris President's Chair
420 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611-5627
312-755-2250 f 312-755-0928 f
www.erikson.edu

Founded by Irving B. Harris

January 14, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of Erikson Institute am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, Erikson Institute intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan: Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the K- Grade 3 professional development.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,



Samuel J. Meisels
President

graduates school in child development
erikson institute



Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) Application for Initial Funding which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of the Forum on the Future of Public Education and our associates in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward to a new level of collaboration among educational researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

Illinois' public and private universities are blessed with a wealth of talent in educational research, and the Illinois Collaborative for Education Policy Research (ICEPR) will capitalize on these resources and focus them on the most important policy questions facing state and local leaders. The partners in ICEPR not only bring considerable expertise in policy research to the table, but they have extensive experience working with districts and practitioner organizations in the state. ICEPR's network and its commitment to capacity building will ensure that educational research in Illinois is targeted at high priority issues, expertly designed and led, efficiently implemented, broadly disseminated, and oriented toward improving programs and practice in Illinois schools.

When combined with the power of Illinois' integrated P-20 longitudinal database, ICEPR will substantially enhance the ability of Illinois' educational leaders to identify leaks in our educational pipeline and determine what interventions will best address those problems. The Forum on the Future of Public Education is excited to provide leadership to the creation of ICEPR and working with other partners to develop an aggressive agenda, including drafting a state educational research agenda and assessing the data analysis capacity of Illinois school districts. We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education and other state agencies on the development and implementation of these RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

Debra Bragg, Ph.D.
Professor, Educational Organization and Leadership
Director, Forum on the Future of Public Education
Director, Office of Community College Research and Leadership
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



January 15, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

I support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. I believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will help enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

I am committed to collaborating with the State to foster STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state. IBM has a long history of fostering STEM education in the State of Illinois. As an IT company, we want to encourage the education community in training a workforce that is capable of using computing effectively. Facilitating STEM careers is the foremost societal concern of the IBM Corporation.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Reid, III

IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs
71 South Wacker Drive
20th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606

IAASE Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education

A subdivision of the Council of Administrators of Special Education
1324 Lantern Lights Circle, Lebanon, IL 62254

<http://www.iaase.org>



Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

January 13, 2010

Dear Dr. Koch:

This letter is written to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. On behalf of Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) I am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

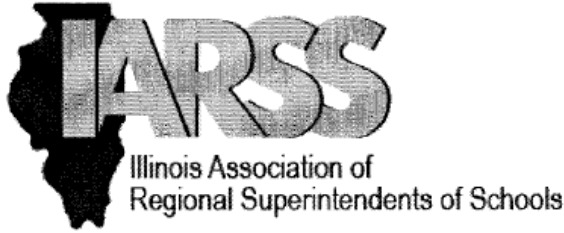
In particular, Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan: providing effective support to teachers and principals, and intensive educator support for critical transition points as outlined in MOU support documentation.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne Carrescia".

Susanne Carrescia
President, IAASE



Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan: We are looking forward to working as a Lead Partner or Supporting Partner in the Illinois Partnership Zone, assisting low-performing schools.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

Gilbert E Morrison, Jr.
President, IARSS

January 15, 2010

Via Electronic Transmission and First Class Mail

Dr. Christopher A. Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Re: Illinois Association of School Administration/Race to the Top Application

Dear Dr. Koch:

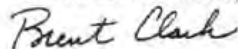
The purpose of this letter is to assist in Illinois' Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RttT") as developed by the Illinois State Board of Education and submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on behalf of all Illinois children.

First, the IASA commends the Board, Administration and Staff of ISBE for all of its time, dedication and tireless effort in the development of Illinois' RttT Application for Initial Funding. The IASA recognizes and appreciates the work product given ever-decreasing funding and resources. It is our honor to work together in our collective quest to better public education in Illinois.

Furthermore, the IASA commits to work collectively and collaboratively with ISBE and all education stakeholders on behalf of Illinois school communities. The IASA will continue to lead and participate in meetings, committees and task forces, such as the Education Stakeholders Meeting, IASA/ISBE Advisory Committee, P-20 Council and Performance Evaluation Advisory Council, once established. It is the intent of the IASA to continue to work together with all education stakeholders to develop the best educational environment for all Illinois administrators, staff and children.

Last, the IASA will strive to facilitate development and implementation of laws, regulations, policies, protocols and procedures for the betterment of public education, given adequate supports, sustainable funding and all committed responsibilities of ISBE and the State and Federal government are provided. However, the IASA will not support legislation, regulations and/or policies which will negatively impact the employment of educational employees without justifiable cause or due process under the law. To this end, the IASA will make every effort to commit its time, talents and resources to ISBE and other education stakeholders for the sustained improvement of education in Illinois.

Yours for better schools,



Dr. Brent Clark
Executive Director
Illinois Association of School Administrators

2648 Beechler Court ★ Springfield, Illinois 62703-7305 ★ 217/753-2213 ★ FAX 217/753-2240

Email: iasa@iasaedu.org World Wide Web: <http://www.iasaedu.org>



ILLINOIS

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS

Northern Illinois University (IA-103)
108 Carroll Avenue, DeKalb, IL 60115

January 9, 2010

Via Electronic Transmission and First Class Mail

Dr. Christopher A. Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to provide support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT"), which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education.

On behalf of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials ("Illinois ASBO") I pledge our continuing commitment to assist you and the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE") in the implementation of the RTTT grant. In addition, we will be pleased to collaborate with ISBE and other stakeholders and legislators to provide additional guidance toward the development and communication of related policies. We also pledge to work together with ISBE and other committees or task forces such as the Education Stakeholders, Illinois Education Roundtable, P-20 Council, and the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council as each has a role in recommending legislation, regulations, procedures and practices to support RTTT.

As you know, we share the concerns of all school districts and policy makers regarding the need for sufficient, reliable and sustainable funding to support the current and future system of public schools in Illinois. This includes both the initiation and maintenance of any new or continuing practices. RTTT is surely intended to make a difference for the children of Illinois and the receipt of this grant will assist all of us in making that a reality. That said, we are doubly committed to collectively maintaining the focus of policymakers and legislators on the need for ongoing funding. It has been our privilege to partner with ISBE in that objective and we will not diminish our support to that end.

Finally, as particular legislation, regulations, procedures and practices emerge, we will be dedicated to support those elements that do not unjustly impact the employment of teachers and school leaders. This is an excellent opportunity in Illinois to encourage sound policy and reform that will positively impact the future of children and we look forward to being an ongoing partner in RTTT.

Sincerely,

Michael Jacoby
Executive Director

ph: 815.753.1276 | fax: 815.753.9367 | online: www.iasbo.org

534 S. Second Street, Suite 200
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1705
217/544-4014 • Fax: 217/544-0225



999 McClintock Drive, Suite 100
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527-0844
312/251-1414 • Fax: 312/251-1420

OFFICERS

Michael T. Carrigan, President
Timothy E. Drea, Secretary Treasurer

www.ilafl-cio.org

January 15, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

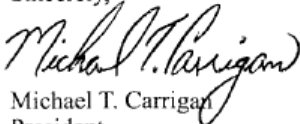
As the president of the Illinois AFL-CIO, I am writing to express support for the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. The Illinois AFL-CIO represents one million union members and is the voice of all working families in the state, and we welcome the opportunity to be a key partner in building a stronger workforce for Illinois.

I believe that the State's RTTT application will position Illinois as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines including careers in the construction industry.

STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for helping students build strong math and science skills by making real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of industry, government, education and the labor community to be partners in this effort.

The Illinois AFL-CIO is willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of the STEM Learning Exchange for Architecture and Construction. We are committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

Sincerely,


Michael T. Carrigan
President

MTC/br
LIUNA362affcio

ILLINOIS STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



Kris Lutt
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 14, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express the iBIO Institute's strong support for—and pledge our assistance to—the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application.

World-class education is necessary for Illinois to develop a workforce able to meet the challenges of the global economy. At iBIO, as at Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), we believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

I also support the application's strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers. I believe the State has identified important high school initiatives in its RTTT application including establishment of a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) as well as development and scaling of STEM-related Programs.

iBIO Institute and its corporate partners successfully partnered with the State of Illinois' Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and State Board of Education on Illinois Innovation Talent, a STEM-focused, industry-led, problem-based learning pilot program. This novel program demonstrated the transformation possible when students connect academic learning with real-world careers and professionals.

65 East Wacker Place
Suite 1600
Chicago IL 60601

Phone 312-422-1111

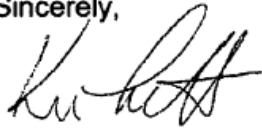
Fax 312-422-1145

Each day, the employees of ADM transform crops such as corn, oilseeds, wheat and cocoa into food ingredients, animal feeds, and agriculturally derived fuels and chemicals that serve vital needs of the global marketplace. The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. And STEM Learning Exchanges are important to the success of STEM-related programs of study, because they bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

The iBIO Institute is willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for Health Sciences and Agriculture and Natural Resources. Specifically, we are committed to growing and leveraging our existing Institute programs—such as SCI: Science Career Investigation®, and TalentSparks!® teacher professional development in biotechnology to support the RTTT plan. We will continue to assist STEM Learning Exchange activities promoting the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

Governor Quinn, I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and let me know if there is anything further I and the iBIO Institute can do to support this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kris Lutt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kris Lutt
Advisor-Office of the Chairman
Archer Daniels Midland Company
Chairman, board of directors, iBIO

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

431 EAST ADAMS STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701-1404

Pat Quinn
Governor

January 16, 2010

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William Obuchowski
Oak Lawn

Executive Director
Judy Erwin

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top ("RTTT") grant proposal that you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. We are excited about the opportunities for constructive change across the broad range of education policies and practices that are presented in Illinois' RTTT application. The resources RTTT will bring to Illinois schools will give those changes positive practical effect in the educational attainment of Illinois students.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education looks forward to working with you, other policymakers, our school districts, and our colleges and universities as the state moves forward with the changes in policy and practice promised in the RTTT application. We also pledge to continue developing with you and the education community the culture of evidence that is required to measure progress toward the goals of RTTT.

Sincerely,

Judy Erwin
Executive Director

Phone: (217) 782-2551 • Fax: (217) 782-8548 • TTY: (888) 261-2881 • www.ibhe.org

Printed on Recycled Paper

January 11, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive education reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top ("RTTT") application.

Having been involved in education improvement efforts in Illinois for the last two decades, this application represents both a stretch and a road map for meaningful improvement strategies. This is completely in keeping with the intent of the RTTT challenge. It is my expectation that local districts choosing to participate in the state application will be equally stretched.

Illinois' application builds rationally upon some of the great things we've been able to accomplish recently in Illinois. Just last spring we put in place a longitudinal data system. This application will enhance it and move it forward faster. With better data, a statewide performance management system is proposed that will link student performance to teacher evaluations and program effectiveness. Illinois' newly constituted P-20 Council will guide future state efforts to build the seamless education and workforce development system, using these enhanced tools.

This application will also offer students multiple rigorous and valid pathways to college and careers. Toward this end, it establishes clear college and work-ready expectations with both the ACT standardized assessment and the ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate ("NCRC"), built into our Prairie State Achievement Exam taken by all Juniors in high school. I am committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program, and look forward to participating in NCRC-related career development programs for students and working to promote the NCRC as a tool for verification of workplace skills.

This application also uniquely positions STEM-related Programs of Study with Learning Exchanges in eight targeted industry clusters to offer a useful structural approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. Given Illinois' pre-eminence regionally and nationally as a financial and insurance services hub, I would suggest Illinois add the financial services cluster to the learning exchange section.

Chairman
RICHARD D. STEPHENS
The Boeing Company

Vice-Chairman
EDWARD B. RUST JR.
State Farm Insurance Co.

Secretary - Treasurer
RUSS M. STROBEL
Micor, Inc.

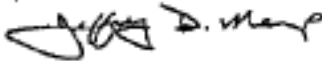
President
JEFFREY D. MAYS
Illinois Business Roundtable

Chairman Emeritus
THOMAS M. PATRICK
Peoples Energy Corp.

I am committed to support STEM Learning Exchange activities by contributing to professional development programs, collaborating to develop real-world interdisciplinary problems for students, and developing opportunities for students to transmit job applications and receive information about career opportunities through STEM Learning Exchanges.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the programs outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Mays". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jeff Mays, President
Illinois Business Roundtable

Illinois Community College Board



Guy H. Alongi
Chairman

Geoffrey S. Obrzut
President/CEO

proudly serving the

Illinois Community College System

January 13, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of the Illinois Community College Board, am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

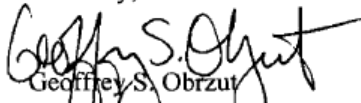
The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, the Illinois Community College Board intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan: College and career-ready standards and high-quality assessment and Pre-K through college and career data systems.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,


Geoffrey S. Obrzut

401 East Capitol Avenue • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1711 • (217) 785-0123 • www.iccb.state.il.us

Fax: (217) 524-4981 TDD: (217) 782-5645

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January 13, 2010

The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor, State of Illinois
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

RE: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing to express strong support for the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application.

I believe the RTTT application will position Illinois as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers that are critical to growth and development of all major critical sectors in Illinois including agriculture, construction, information technology, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, and healthcare, as well as the emerging energy sector.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is committed to serve as a partner in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for all STEM areas.

In addition, as co-chair of the Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB) and chair of the IWIB State Energy Sector Partnership, I will work with other public and private partners to plan and implement the Energy Learning Exchange.

Sincerely,

Warren Ribley
Director

Internet Address <http://www.commerce.state.il.us>

620 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1615

217/782-7500
TDD: 800/785-6055

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Marion, Illinois 62959-1180

618/997-4394
TDD: 800/785-6055



Illinois Education Association-NEA

*Ken Swanson, President
Robert Blade, Vice President
Cinda Klickna, Secretary-Treasurer
Audrey Soglin, Executive Director*

100 East Edwards Street
Springfield, IL 62704-1999
(217) 544-0706 Fax 217.544.7383

January 15, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent
Illinois State Board of Education
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding (RTTT), which you are submitting on the state's behalf to the U.S. Department of Education.

The RTTT grant has the potential to move our state forward through the implementation of ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. This federal funding would allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce.

On behalf of the more than 133,000 Illinois Education Association (IEA) members, I want to express my appreciation to you and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for your willingness to work closely with IEA in the development of the RTTT grant proposal. Because you and the board considered the expertise of our classroom educators, Illinois was able to submit a high-quality proposal that gives the students in our state the best opportunity to benefit from this grant program.

Should the Illinois proposal be selected for funding, we will be prepared to continue the collaboration between ISBE and the educators who have agreed to participate in RTTT.

The mission of the IEA is "to effect excellence and equity in public education." The RTTT application, because it was developed collaboratively, aligns very well with the IEA mission.

In addition, IEA believes it is important to recognize that our public schools, the dedicated staff who work in them and the school boards who oversee them, cannot be exclusively held accountable for student achievement. Students themselves, parents, communities and those at the state and federal level who are responsible for providing the resources necessary for EVERY school and EVERY child to succeed, must also be held accountable. Only when every stakeholder fully participates and lives up to his/her obligations will we truly provide an opportunity for every child to attain success.

Letter to: Dr. Chris Koch
January 15, 2010
Page 2

We are committed to supporting our local associations who have agreed to participate in Illinois' grant application. We will encourage all involved in the grant to work collaboratively to develop and implement their local plans. As always, we will wholeheartedly support our members in their efforts to continue to improve Illinois' public schools and the teaching profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Ken Swanson, President

KS/mjb



Illinois Education Research Council

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE, EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS 62026-1064
Telephone: 866-799-IERC (4372) or 618.650.2840. E-mail: ierc@siue.edu Web site: ierc.siue.edu

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January 13, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding (RTTT) which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of the Illinois Education Research Council, am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, the Illinois Education Research Council intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan: *updating and refining the IERC Index of Teacher Academic Capital (ITAC) to analyze the equitable distribution of highly effective teachers and principals throughout the state. The IERC will also participate in the Educational Research Collaborative Steering Committee and Board, and will continue to serve on the Technical Advisory Group for the Illinois Longitudinal Data System.*

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sullivan Brown, Ph.D.
Executive Director



A Union of Professionals

**Illinois Federation
of Teachers**

500 Oakmont Lane
P.O. Box 390
Westmont, IL 60559
T: 630/468-4080
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www.ift-aft.org

Ed Geppert, Jr.
PRESIDENT

Marilyn Stewart
SECRETARY-TREASURER



An affiliate of
the AFT, AFL-CIO

January 15, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

On behalf of the 103,000 members of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, I am writing to express support for Illinois' Race to the Top (RttT) Application for Initial Funding which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. Thanks to the work of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois General Assembly, and Gov. Pat Quinn's office, Illinois has in place many innovative projects to satisfy the assurance areas of the Race to the Top grant.

The IFT recognizes that ISBE and Illinois' 870-plus school districts are in dire need of funding to support the state's many current, strong education reform initiatives and that there is a need for federal funds to fill the gaps until an equitable, sustainable source of state funding is available. RttT funds can begin to fill these gaps for ISBE and participating RttT districts. These initiatives include:

- a fully-functioning longitudinal data system and learning and performance management system that every classroom teacher is able to access throughout the school day;
- induction-mentoring programs for all new teachers;
- an effective, research-based Response to Intervention process implemented in every school; and
- continued work to align the Illinois Learning Standards to the Common Core initiative, to revise K-12 standards, and to implement updated Learning Standards in every classroom, as well as develop new state and local assessments aligned to updated standards.

While the IFT supports the state's application for RttT grant funds, we are concerned that the conditions placed on states to access these funds are driven by a reform agenda that does not necessarily include a strong foundation in all of the critical supports for educators and school systems. The IFT believes that sustained, effective initiatives can have a long-term impact on students' education and post-secondary success, but that impact will not occur without addressing the following concerns:

- Illinois' state education agency itself must have the necessary capacity and staffing levels built within the system to allow for supports to school districts and educators as reforms are implemented.
- Sustained funding sources at the state level must be in place to support education initiatives beyond RttT.

- Research-based improvement strategies beyond RttT grant guidelines must be included as well, with an emphasis on the necessary supports and collaboration time required to implement.
- Student growth being included as a significant factor in teacher evaluation without strong, research-based evidence to show positive impacts on student achievement must not be allowed to divert local resources and focus from vital education initiatives.

In particular, the IFT intends to support the implementation of Illinois' RttT plan by working at both a state and local level. The IFT commits to participate in state-level work to implement RttT activities in a collaborative way with ISBE and other education stakeholders. Moreover, the IFT will work with our local unions to provide information and assistance in their efforts on RttT initiatives with their school districts. The IFT recognizes that effective state and district leadership in collaboration with union leaders and school staff will bring about real and positive changes that will have a lasting impact on both educator professional growth and student outcomes.

The Illinois Federation of Teachers looks forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the state's Race to the Top proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Geppert, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Ed Geppert, Jr.
President

January 11, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

The Illinois Committee for Agricultural Education (ICAE) and the Illinois Leadership Committee for Agricultural Education (ILCAE) are writing to express strong support for the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application.

We believe that RTTT application will position Illinois as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines which includes careers in the agriculture sector.

STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for helping students build strong math and science skills by making real-world connections with their academic and career interests. This approach is already being used successfully in agricultural education.

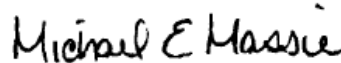
STEM Learning Exchanges, based on a long-standing successful model from Illinois Agricultural Education, are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of industry, government and education partners.

Both ICAE and ILCAE are committed to continue working with the State in supporting STEM-related Programs of Study in Agriculture and Natural Resources. We also will work cooperatively through consultation with other STEM Learning Exchanges in supporting the growth of STEM-related Programs of Study throughout Illinois.

Sincerely,



David Mouser
ICAE Chair



Michael Massie
ILCAE Chair

200 South Fredrick • Rantoul, IL 61866

Where Education and Industry Meet



200 East Randolph, Suite 2200
Chicago, IL 60601
T 312 494 6747
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istcoalition.org

January 15, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

On behalf of the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition, I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

The Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC) cultivates economic development in Illinois by advocating for increased resources for Research & Development initiatives at Illinois-based institutions and businesses and is active in the industries of advanced manufacturing, agriculture, energy, information technology, life sciences, and supercomputing. Improvement in student performance in STEM disciplines will help build a workforce educated to meet the demands to ensure a bright economic future for Illinois.

The ISTC also offers our services as a planning and implementation partner to the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for Research & Development. In particular, the ISTC is committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

The ISTC supports the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. The important and effective high school reform initiatives identified are consistent with the interests of the ISTC, including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC promises to be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-



related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

The ISTC is committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related programs of study throughout Illinois.

We look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Summy". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Matthew Summy
President & CEO



January 15, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

I support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. I believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

I am committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state.

I am willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for transportation, distribution and logistics. I am committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Johl

Chairman
Illinois TDL Task Force

Michael A. Johl, LLC Consulting 3038 N. 76th Avenue Elmwood Park, Illinois 60707 Phone 312-316-6070 Fax 708-452-7026



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January 15, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

I support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. I believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

I am committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state.

I am willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for transportation, distribution and logistics. I am committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

George A. Billows

George A. Billows
Executive Director
Illinois Trucking Association

TRUCKS BRING

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777



Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of the Interactive Illinois Report Card project, am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, the Interactive Illinois Report Card (<http://iirc.niu.edu>) intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan:

1. Standards & Assessments: IIRC is committed to assisting with developing and hosting the array of improved school performance benchmarks, assessments for learning, and performance measures in the RTTT plan including interactive access to the Common Core standards and STEM learning exchanges, much as we currently post the full portfolio of assessment and instructional resources on the user-friendly web site on behalf of your agency;
2. Data Systems to Support Instruction: IIRC will provide all necessary technical assistance with the roll-out of the student data system with classroom applications for teachers and administrators; we will build on our current proven experience hosting in a web environment individual student assessment reports and other learning metrics (under secured access) available to educators in all districts in Illinois, through our partnership with your agency. This current system provides a fully tested preliminary data program that can be scaled up quickly to support the ambitious but achievable goals of your agency's RTTT.
3. Intensive Educator Support for Critical P-20 Transitions: as a university-based project, IIRC is positioned to assist in developing workshops, professional development programs, and on-line resources to support the laudable RTTT initiatives for intensive educator support, particularly with respect to the middle-to-high school transition and career and college readiness.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

[signed]
Harvey Smith, Ph.D.
Director, Interactive Illinois Report Card

Northern Illinois University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution.

January 15, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street
Springfield, IL 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

This letter serves as support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding (RTTT), which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education on behalf of the Large Unit District Association (LUDA). It is with great sincerity and earnestness that this support is offered.

Our member districts, who make up over half of the children of the state of Illinois, will be the recipients of the broad transformation that will occur due to our state's involvement in Race to the Top. This application reflects the education reform agenda that can become reality with the support of federal resources.

The receipt of this grant will ensure the development and implementation of standards and assessment systems, data systems, recognition systems, and support systems. It will ensure new certification, preparation, and evaluation programs. It will address the needs of our highest priority schools, while providing ongoing induction, mentoring, and professional development for our teachers and leaders. It will serve as the lever for making transformation and continuous improvement a reality in the state of Illinois.

It is with confidence that I believe this enormous undertaking will succeed having watched the collaboration among the education stakeholders of our state grow during the tenure of Dr. Koch as our state superintendent. Additionally, the alignment of our P-20 system is guaranteed through the growing relationship among our Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The increasingly strong relationship among key legislators, the governor's office, and our state board of education will ensure the authentic implementation of this plan.

LUDA members make up a large percentage of participating districts in Race to the Top. As the largest unit districts in our state, these districts reflect some of the greatest need, while recognizing the need to take the boldest steps for reform. They will be revising their performance evaluations, they will be developing new data systems, implementing new assessment, and finding means to get the most effective educators to their most needy schools, among other reforms.

In closing, I want to stress my personal respect and admiration for those individuals who worked tirelessly in developing this application. Through their leadership and hard work, educators from all over our state have communicated and built stronger relationships that will endure this implementation to make education in Illinois enhanced for all of our students.

Most sincerely,

Diane Rutledge, Ph.D.
Executive Director, LUDA



David P. Prasse, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education
820 N. Michigan | Chicago, Illinois 60611
p (312) 915-6992
dprasse@luc.edu

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of the School of Education, Loyola University Chicago am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, the School of Education at Loyola University Chicago intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan: Improving the Effectiveness of Teacher and Principal Preparation, Implementing a Statewide Longitudinal Data System, and Supporting Enhanced Standards and High Quality Assessments.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

David P. Prasse, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education
Loyola University Chicago



January 15, 2010

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Saint Bernard Hospital and
Health Care Center

Thomas L. Wright
President/Chief Executive Officer
Deinor-Community Hospital

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

The Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) is writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

As a membership association representing 95 hospitals in the Chicago that employ more than 158,720 full-time job equivalent employees, making health care the number one employer in the region, MCHC supports the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. We believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

MCHC is committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state. We are happy to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges the Health Sciences. We commit to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

We look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Kelly
Vice President, Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council

January 14, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

I support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. I believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

I am committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state.

I am willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for **(SELECT ONE OR MORE AREAS FROM 8 INITIAL AREAS LISTED ON THE SUMMARY)**. I am committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,



Shelley Stern Grach
Central Region Citizenship Director,
Microsoft Corporation
200 E. Randolph, Suite 200
Chicago IL 60610

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

National Center for Supercomputing Applications

1008 NCSA Building
1205 West Clark Street
Urbana, IL 61801



January 11, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

The National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign strongly supports the educational reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. It is well aligned with our own goals and vision to improve student understanding and performance, particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Given the tremendous assets possessed by the state, we believe that Illinois can be a leader in preparing students for the 21st Century workforce.

For more than 20 years, NCSA has been a leader in deploying robust high-performance computing resources and in working with research and education communities to develop new computing and software technologies. Building on this history of leadership, NCSA and its partners are currently at work on the Blue Waters project, which will provide the national research community with a sustained-petaflop supercomputer—called Blue Waters—that is an order of magnitude more powerful than the current computing resources available for non-classified scientific research. This dramatic increase in computing capability has the potential to create breakthrough advances in all fields of science and engineering, including predicting the behavior of complex biological systems, understanding the production of heavy elements in supernovae, designing catalysts and other materials at the atomic level, predicting changes in the earth's climate and ecosystems, and designing complex engineered systems from chemical plants to airplanes.

Since its inception, the Center has considered education to be a top priority. Few benefits of the national cyberinfrastructure, including its top-end supercomputers, will be realized without scientists and engineers who understand the new capabilities that it provides, and can use these capabilities to address the nation's most pressing problems. Toward that end, we are focused on bringing *computing and computation into the classroom* to help students understand basic scientific concepts and to bridge the gap between research and education. Many of our activities and programs include disseminating advanced technologies to new and established communities (including the educational community),

ensuring that the benefits of the national cyberinfrastructure are made available to educators and students throughout the country. Access to Blue Waters places NCSA, the University of Illinois and the state of Illinois in a unique position in regard to STEM education.

The NCSA strongly supports the RTTT emphasis on high school educational reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. The Institute for Chemistry Literacy through Computational Science (ICLCS) project, which is a partnership of NCSA, the Department of Chemistry and the College of Medicine, has shown that the use of computational tools to teach basic chemical concepts has the potential to revolutionize the teaching of chemistry in high school. Working with teachers from Illinois' rural high schools, this project has shown that teachers and students enthusiastically embrace the use of computational tools in the classroom. Measurable results show clear, improved performance of students on standardized chemistry tests, and an increased student interest in chemistry.

The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

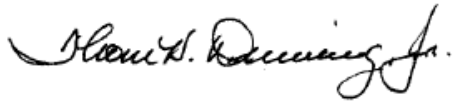
The NCSA would be pleased to partner with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state in the following ways:

1. *Cloud Computing Infrastructure for Education*: Acquire, deploy and operate a cloud computing environment for the Learning and Performance Management System delivered by a team of world-renowned computer scientists and educators. Develop/re-tool existing software applications needed to analyze the data, as well as contributing to the design of the LPMS.
2. *Blue Wave in Science Education in Illinois*: Partner with IMSA and other Illinois high schools to create a "Blue Wave in Science Education in Illinois" modeled after the ICLCS project, but extended to all areas of science and to all Illinois high schools, using the cloud computing environment above. This model will be implemented as part of each STEM Learning Exchange and includes a robust professional development component for teachers in STEM disciplines and the development and maintenance of a Virtual Professional Learning Community.
3. *SuperQuest Program for Exceptional Students*: Develop a SuperQuest program that provides a platform for a competition where students of all achievement levels compete and collaborate virtually on computational projects across STEM disciplines in partnership with researchers and industry.

All of these activities would be undertaken by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at cost.

We are proud to be working with the state of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thom H. Dunning, Jr." in a cursive style.

Thom H. Dunning, Jr.

Director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications
Director, Institute for Advanced Computing Applications and Technologies
Distinguished Chair for Research Excellence in Chemistry
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

xc: Danny Powell, Executive Director, National Center for Supercomputing Applications
Edee Wiziecki, Educational Division, National Center for Supercomputing Applications

December 23, 2009

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive education reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top ("RTTT") application.

Having been involved in education improvement efforts in Illinois for the last two decades, this application represents both a stretch and a road map for meaningful improvement strategies. This is completely in keeping with the intent of the RTTT challenge. It is my expectation that local districts choosing to participate in the state application will be equally stretched.

Illinois' application builds rationally upon some of the great things we've been able to accomplish recently in Illinois. Just last spring we put in place a longitudinal data system. This application will enhance it and move it forward faster. With better data, a statewide performance management system is proposed that will link student performance to teacher evaluations and program effectiveness. Illinois' newly constituted P-20 Council will guide future state efforts to build the seamless education and workforce development system, using these enhanced tools.

This application will also offer students multiple rigorous and valid pathways to college and careers. Toward this end, it establishes clear college and work-ready expectations with both the ACT standardized assessment and the ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate ("NCRC"), built into our Prairie State Achievement Exam taken by all Juniors in high school. I am committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program, and look forward to participating in NCRC-related career development programs for students and working to promote the NCRC as a tool for verification of workplace skills.


This application also uniquely positions STEM-related Programs of Study with Learning Exchanges in eight targeted industry clusters to offer a useful structural approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. I would suggest Illinois add two additional clusters: financial services and the arts.

Governor Pat Quinn
December 23, 2009
Page 2

I am committed to support STEM Learning Exchange activities by contributing to professional development programs, collaborating to develop real-world interdisciplinary problems for students, and developing opportunities for students to transmit job applications and receive information about career opportunities through STEM Learning Exchanges.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the programs outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert L. Del Boca
Sector Vice President and General Manager
Defensive Systems Division
Electronic Systems

RLD:es

the Ounce

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January 15, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

On behalf of the Ounce of Prevention Fund, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Race to the Top (RTTT) application for initial funding which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. This is an exciting time for education in the country and the state. Illinois truly believes that in order to prepare children for success in school and in life, education needs to begin at birth. Recently the governor convened a P-20 Council to ensure that the education continuum is coordinated at every level. And, just this week, Governor Quinn reminded us in his State of the State address of his commitment to investing in "accountable education programs."

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders, by providing them with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turn around our most challenged schools.

We are particularly excited about the state's plans to develop and implement a Kindergarten Readiness Measure to promote instructional alignment from PreK through third grade. This measure will provide a snapshot of where students are developmentally as they begin kindergarten, allowing parents and educators to address student deficiencies at an early stage in a child's development. Additionally, it will provide statewide comparable data to help us better assess our programs and implement necessary improvements.

The Ounce intends to support the implementation of the state's RTTT plan by actively participating as a partner in planning around Kindergarten Readiness Assessments, remaining an active training resource, and through my role as an Ex-Officio member of the P-20 Council.

We look forward to continuing our longstanding partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT

proposed reforms and programs and to the ongoing efforts to ensure the future success of Illinois' children and schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diana Mendley Rauner".

Diana Mendley Rauner, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding ("RTTT") which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. I, on behalf of the Parents & Residents Invested in School and Education (PRISE) Reform Coalition am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms. The available funds will allow Illinois to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each and every child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt world class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, PRISE Reform Coalition intends to support the implementation of the following components of the State's RTTT plan: increasing parent and community engagement and social support for the most challenged low-performing schools.

We look forward to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,

Patricia Watkins

Patricia Watkins, Ph.D.

Convener



161 N. Clark Street, Suite 4700, Chicago, IL 60601
Ph: 312.587.7426 Fax: 877.594.7426
www.ricoenterprises.com

January 8, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive education reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top ("RTTT") application.

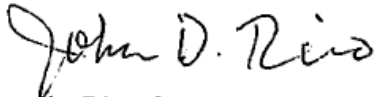
As president of Rico Enterprises I have served in many volunteer roles involving education improvement efforts in Illinois for more than two decades. Most recently, you appointed me to the new Illinois P-20 Council. I am currently serving as Chair of the Illinois Workforce Investment Board's IT Workforce Task Force. I chair the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce's Technology 2020 Committee.

From the findings and recommendations of the IT Workforce Task Force and interests of the Technology 2020 Committee members, I can definitely assure that we have companies ready to be active in STEM Learning Exchange IT activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

Illinois' newly constituted P-20 Council will guide future state efforts to build the seamless education and workforce development system, using enhanced tools such as the longitudinal data system. Funding of the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application is essential for meaningful improvement to occur swiftly.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the programs outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. Rico". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "R".

John Rico, Sr.
President & CEO
Rico Computers Enterprises, Inc.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

January 15, 2009

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I am writing to express support for the Race to the Top (RTTT) Application for Initial Funding which you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. On behalf of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) and the School of Education (SOE), I am excited about the opportunity the federal RTTT grant provides to move the State of Illinois forward on ground-breaking, transformative education reforms.

The available funds will allow Illinois to build upon its past initiatives in P-20 education to continue to develop an educational system that will prepare each child in Illinois for postsecondary education and the workforce. Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student, if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers, will become a productive citizen who will make profound and positive contributions to the region, state, and global community. In addition, RTTT funds will assist Illinois in addressing the problems that continue to plague persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports the Illinois education reform agenda by ensuring that we adopt rigorous standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders by providing educators with access to the necessary data and tools to improve student outcomes and to turnaround our most challenged schools. This will be accomplished through the state's focus on RTTT's four critical reform areas: effective teachers and leaders, data systems to support instruction, strong standards and assessments, and systemic support for struggling schools. SIUE shares the state's commitment to the successful implementation of these critical reforms.

SIUE has demonstrated its commitment to current educational reforms in Illinois through the participation of its faculty and administrators in several critical initiatives that relate to RTTT's reform agenda. For example, the School of Education (SOE) has been actively involved in recent efforts to reform and redesign administrator preparation, has developed successful pathways for certification for non-traditional students in critical needs areas such as Early Childhood Education and Secondary Education that insure that students have access to fully certified teachers, and participates with other public institutions to collect and disseminate data related to graduate satisfaction and success in the classroom through annual surveys of novices and their supervisors. The SOE strongly supports the revisions being proposed of the Illinois Teaching Standards and efforts to strengthen content knowledge for secondary endorsements. In addition, as the SOE's Dean I have served on the state's Leadership to Integrate the Learning Continuum (LINC) Advisory Committee, Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC)

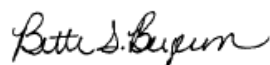
Partnership Board, Associate of Arts in Teaching Steering Committee, and the Charter School Authorizer Task Force, all of which support initiatives being proposed under RTTT. The SOE is firmly committed to excellence in educator preparation, welcomes the opportunity for programmatic review that is transparent and methodologically sound, and anticipates the opportunity to be an active participant in the groundbreaking work proposed through Illinois' RTTT proposal.

SIUE and the School of Education also anticipate supporting the implementation of RTTT's initiatives through the University's newly formed STEM Center, which will coordinate the various STEM-related activities across campus in order to strengthen impact on P-12 outreach and related research. Through its STEM Center, SIUE and the SOE anticipate participating in the state's proposed "STEM Learning Exchange," which will expand access to STEM opportunities and support the development of effective STEM-related programs for P-12 students and teachers. Application areas that are specifically reflective of expertise at SIUE would include Energy, Manufacturing, Information Technology, Research and Development, and the Health Sciences. Through its participation in the STEM Learning Exchange and other related RTTT activities, including the STEM Educator Support Programs and STEM externships, SIUE's STEM Center anticipates working collaboratively with entities across Illinois to strengthen teachers' knowledge and effectiveness in the critical areas of mathematics and science to insure success of Illinois' P-12 students.

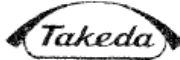
In collaboration with the East St. Louis School District, SIUE currently holds a charter for a high school that serves adolescents who are at risk. SIUE and the SOE support the reform initiatives outlined in the state's RTTT proposal to build upon the charter school's successes in graduation rate, post-secondary placement, and attendance to strengthen students' academic achievements. Identified as one of the state's "high priority" schools, this charter school anticipates participation in the proposed Illinois Partnership Zone and systemic reform proposals. This spring, administrators from the charter school, SIUE, the SOE, and the East St. Louis School District are already meeting to begin the process of planning for the future, including performing a comprehensive internal evaluation, to insure that students at this school will have access to exemplary teachers, school leaders, and instruction.

As a campus community and regional leader, SIUE and its School of Education are committed to the reform efforts proposed under the state's RTTT proposal and its focus on excellent teachers, assessments, and instruction. We look forward to building upon our record of collaborative work with the state through our continued commitment to partnering with the Illinois State Board of Education on the development and implementation of the RTTT proposed reforms and programs.

Sincerely,



Bette S. Bergeron, Ph.D.
Dean



January 11, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

The emphasis on high school reform and focus on improving transitions into both college and careers will ensure the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. The State has identified an important and effective high school reform initiative in its RTTT application, including the establishment of a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

As chair of the iBIO Institute, whose mission is to provide education, training and research in biotechnology to the business, educational communities and general public, and through Takeda's backing of the Institute's activities, we look to also support the State's NCRC and STEM-related Programs.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders on the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

Nancy Joseph-Ridge, M.D.
General Manager
Pharmaceutical Development Division
Takeda Pharmaceuticals International
Chair, iBIO Institute Board of Directors

TAKEDA GLOBAL RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER
One Takeda Parkway Deerfield, Illinois 60015 Phone: 224-554-6500

January 8, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Letter of Support for State of Illinois Race to the Top Application

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. I believe that RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

I support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers—ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce ready for a modern global economy. I believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.


The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

I am committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state.

I am willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges in the areas of research & development and information technology. I am committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

I look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep me informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,



Ed Longanecker
Executive Director
TechAmerica Midwest
630-282-4332 / ed.longanecker@techamerica.org
AeA and ITAA have merged to form TechAmerica

TechAmerica Midwest
1100 E. Warrenville Rd., Suite 150 Naperville, IL 60563
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January 11, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street
Suite 16-100
Chicago IL 60601

Re: Letter of Support for The State of Illinois "Race to the Top" Application

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing to express strong support for the comprehensive reforms outlined in the State of Illinois' Race to the Top (RTTT) application. We believe RTTT presents an unparalleled opportunity for Illinois to dramatically improve student performance and outcomes and serve as a leader in preparing students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

We support the strong emphasis on high school reform and the focus on improving transitions into both college and careers – ensuring the development of a well-educated workforce, ready for a modern global economy. We believe the State has identified important and effective high school reform initiatives in its RTTT application, including establishing a statewide program for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) and developing and scaling STEM-related Programs of Study.

The NCRC will be an important career readiness credential relevant to a wide range of careers. The STEM-related Programs of Study offer a promising approach for high school reform that will enable students to make real-world connections with their academic and career interests. STEM Learning Exchanges are critical to the success of STEM-related programs of study because they will bring together the resources and expertise of a wide range of business and industry, education and government partners.

We are committed to partnering with the State to implement the NCRC program and STEM-related Programs of Study throughout the state, and TMA currently offers NCRC certification.

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Illinois' Premier Full Service Manufacturing Association



TOOLING & MANUFACTURING ASSOCIATION

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We are willing to serve as a partner with the State in the planning and implementation of STEM Learning Exchanges for 1) manufacturing and 2) transportation, distribution and logistics. We are committed to supporting STEM Learning Exchange activities including the development of e-learning curriculum resources, professional development programs for teachers, and expanding internships and career development opportunities for students.

We look forward to working with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders to implement the initiatives outlined in Illinois' Race to the Top application. Please keep us informed of RTTT progress and any opportunities to assist in implementation of the RTTT plan.

Sincerely,

Brian P. McGuire
President

BPM/crc

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Illinois' Premier Full Service Manufacturing Association

January 15, 2010

Dr. Christopher Koch
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street, S-405
Springfield, Illinois 62777

Dear Dr. Koch:

I write to support the Race to the Top Application for Initial Funding you are submitting to the U.S. Department of Education. Voices for Illinois Children is excited about the opportunity this grant provides to move Illinois forward on innovative education reforms. RTTT funding would allow our state to better-develop an educational system that prepares every Illinois child for success in school, the workforce and throughout their lives. In addition, the funds would help our state address many problems that trouble persistently low-achieving schools and districts.

The RTTT proposal supports Illinois' education-reform agenda by ensuring we adopt world-class standards and assessments for students, teachers and school leaders. We can do this by providing teachers and school leaders with access to the data and tools that are necessary to improve student outcomes and to turn around our most challenged schools.

Illinois' RTTT proposal supports our belief that every student – if provided with the knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to succeed in postsecondary education and careers – will become a productive citizen in our ever-changing world.

In particular, Voices for Illinois Children intends to support the state's RTTT plan by:

- Service on Illinois' P-20 Council;
- Advocating for the full development and best use of both Kindergarten-readiness measures and longitudinal, P-20 data-sharing processes in Illinois, as well as their proper monitoring;
- Pressing for additional local, state and federal funding to support RTTT priorities; and
- Building public awareness of and support for RTTT, its goals – and what it takes to reach them.

We look forward to working with the Illinois State Board of Education on RTTT-related reforms and efforts to improve children's learning, throughout our state.

Sincerely,



Kathy Ryg, President