

University of Colorado Denver
School of Education & Human Development

Office of the Dean

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Mr. Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan,

As an educator committed to improving the effectiveness of Colorado's teaching force, I would like to express my strong support for the application submitted by the Colorado Department of Education for a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant.

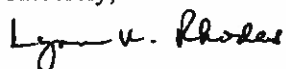
I have provided input in the development of the proposal, and have read drafts and suggested changes that were designed to ensure that educator providers could access and effectively utilize data to improve the preparation of teachers and other educators. I am confident that the plans expressed in Colorado's proposal will help increase student achievement statewide and will help Schools of Education as well as alternative providers better understand their roles in doing so.

The proposal by the Colorado Department of Education, the SchoolView™ Project, focuses on data system infrastructure development. Taking the Colorado Department of Education's progress in this area to the next level, this application outlines the development of a knowledge management system that will allow stakeholders, including Schools of Education, to create and apply knowledge in educational decision making.

The strategic objectives of this proposal will equip users to manage and use information for informed decision-making ensuring that all students in Colorado are ready for post-secondary workforce success. I am particularly interested in using the data to understand how more than a dozen programs in the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver serve the schools and districts in the Denver area: the persistence of our graduates in the profession and in high-need schools in particular, the impact of our graduates' work in schools on K-12 student learning, our graduates' performance in their positions, and our graduates' leadership roles in schools and districts, especially where that leadership positively influences educational equity. In addition to leading this work in my own School at UC Denver, I am leading the work of the Colorado Council of Deans of Education to share and discuss data with a focus on improving educator preparation and ultimately, K-12 student achievement.

With continued efforts in the area of providing comprehensive and meaningful data, Colorado educators, and the organizations that train them, will have additional tools in their efforts to help all children reach their educational potential. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lynn K. Rhodes, Dean and Professor