

November 30, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Duncan,

I write to express support for Colorado's application to the U.S. Department of Education for a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant.

Rose Community Foundation has invested \$150,000 in Governor Ritter's P-20 Council and more than \$300,000 in the development of Colorado's unique educator identifier system, including much of the political work that led up to the creation of what ultimately became successful legislation. I am confident the foundation community will continue to be active in Colorado's efforts to raise student achievement statewide. While the foundation community in Colorado is robust and consistently supports important education initiatives, additional funds are necessary to implement the system described in the Colorado Department of Education's SLDS proposal.

The proposal by the Colorado Department of Education, the SchoolView™ Project, clearly outlines the priorities and plans established by the P-20 Council, legislators, Governor Ritter and the Colorado Department of Education. 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 prepared for post-secondary education and the workforce.

Coupled with Colorado's existing conditions, a grant from the U.S. Department of Education would pave the way for an effective data system that will help build knowledge and capacity among all of education's stakeholders. I am confident that Colorado is a valuable investment and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Phil Gonring
Senior Program Officer