

Greater Phoenix Educational Management Council (GPEMC)

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GPEMC Member Districts

Agua Fria Union HSD #216
Alhambra Elementary #68
Arlington Elementary District #47
Balsz Elementary #31
Blueprint Education/ Phoenix SP&A
Buckeye Elementary #33
Buckeye Union HS District #201
Cartwright Elementary #83
Cave Creek Unified #93
Creighton Elementary #14
Dysart Unified #89
Fountain Hills Unified #98
Fowler Elementary #45
Glendale Elementary #40
Isaac Elementary #5
Laveen Elementary #59
Liberty Elementary #25
Littleton Elementary #65
Madison Elementary #38
Murphy Elementary #21
Nadaburg Unified #81
Osborn Elementary #8
Palo Verde Elementary #49
Pendergast Elementary #92
Phoenix Elementary #1
Phoenix Union HSD #210
Riverside Elementary #2
Roosevelt Elementary #66
Saddle Mountain Unified #90
Tolleson Elementary #17
Tolleson Union HSD #214
Union Elementary #62
Wickenburg Unified #9
Wilson Elementary #7



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May 18, 2010

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer,

We are writing to fully endorse Arizona's Round 2 Race To The Top Application. Our organization represents the Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) of the largest business, professional firms, and philanthropy's in Arizona. We have sister organizations in Tucson and Flagstaff.

Greater Phoenix Leadership (GPL) has been a major force since 2002 in leading education reform efforts in Arizona. We have championed early childhood education by supporting the "First Things First Initiative" which was passed and implemented. We helped secure voluntary all-day kindergarten, raised the graduation standards, developed assessments that were college/career ready benchmarked, worked to secure a State data system P through 20, helped develop pathways for early college options and set a goal to double the number of "college goers". GPL has hired and placed a full time education executive to address the task of education reform, in Arizona, across the P-20 continuum. We have worked to bring collaboration among the institutions of Education, Government, Philanthropy and Business.

GPL supports campaigns that impact educational reforms and improve financing for our schools. Those elections have specifically supported the kind of education reform that is planned in Arizona's Race To The Top Round 2 application. We have worked with key legislators to secure laws that allow significant education reform to occur in the areas of transparency of data, graduation based on performance rather than "seat time", incentives for outputs that encourage student achievement and high performance.

We help place business leaders on governing boards, state boards, boards to raise funds for struggling students, and the "Teach For America" board. Our leaders have been at the table in the development of Round 2 of the Race To The Top application and GPL gives it our full support. We are committed to be part of the implementation that improves the education outcomes for Arizona students and look forward to a successful application.

Respectfully,

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

Thomas R. Franz
President and CEO