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May 15, 2010

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington St., 9th floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer,

I write today to affirm the Flinn Foundation's support of Arizona's application in the Race to the Top Phase II competition.

Since the Flinn Foundation's establishment in 1965 by Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Flinn, we have dedicated our philanthropic resources to improving the quality of life in Arizona to benefit future generations. Inspired by Dr. and Mrs. Flinn's personal commitment to strengthening healthcare, the Foundation has given tens of millions of dollars to support medical education, biomedical research, community health care, and health-policy research.

The Flinn Foundation has also dedicated more than \$20 million over the past 25 years to the Flinn Scholars Program, designed to enhance the ability of Arizona's public universities to attract the highest achieving graduates of the state's high schools. The Flinn Scholars have helped the universities' Honors programs become some of the finest in the United States.

Unless Arizona transforms its education system, however, the Flinn Foundation's decades of investment in our future will stand at risk. Arizona's transition to a more diversified and resilient economy depends on innovation in and reform of our education system, and failing to modernize will threaten our quality of life far more than the global recession has challenged our present circumstances.

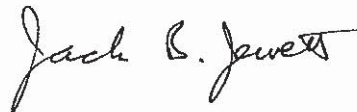
The heart of a stronger education system is instruction that gives all students the tools for success in their postsecondary education and careers, and we are pleased that Arizona's application in the Race to the Top Phase II competition emphasizes proven approaches to make instruction more effective, such as adoption of the Common Core Standards Initiative, better use of data to inform instruction, and expansion of pathways to recruit and prepare excellent teachers.

As a foundation committed to improving the quality of life of *all* Arizonans, we are also encouraged that Arizona's application proposes the establishment of Regional Centers for Innovation and Reform, which will enable better support for low-achieving schools, and will

serve as critical resources for rural and Tribal schools, which our education system has historically underserved.

The era has passed in which Arizona could achieve prosperity by relying on natural resources, abundant sunshine, and low labor costs. At the Flinn Foundation, we see education as the economic driver of our state's knowledge-based economy in the 21st Century. The realization of our philanthropic vision depends on more effective instruction for all students, and Arizona's Race to the Top application shows that our state is ready to transform its education system. We enthusiastically endorse Arizona's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack B. Jewett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jack B. Jewett
President and CEO
Flinn Foundation