

The Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer,

Rio Salado College (RSC) is please to provide a letter of commitment for Arizona's Race to the Top application. It is our belief that the Race To the Top proposal will have a significant effect on Arizona's educational system, which in turn, broadens the opportunities afforded to students upon successful completion on their education career.

RSC's revolutionary approach to teacher preparation combines the flexibility, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness of online programs with critically important hands-on classroom experiences to deliver a state-approved teacher preparation program that produces Highly Qualified, successful classroom teachers. Rio Salado College's State Approved Teacher Education Program is in the business of supporting strategies and efforts that positively influence the lives of students, their schools within which they are enrolled and their communities as a whole. It is our belief that as Arizona seeks to reform 1)standards and assessment, 2)data systems to support instruction, 3) great teachers and leaders, and 4) turning around the lowest achieving schools, we can be an integral part of making this program a success.

As one of only two state approved teacher preparation programs at the Community College level in Arizona, RSC has the opportunity to influence the preparation of our educational personnel, from direct classroom instruction to professional development for administration and staff members. RSC works tirelessly to support students at all levels and understands the concept that some students will need immediate training for careers right after high school, while others should be prepared for the entrance into college, but baseline for success in the K-12 classroom should not be any different for the two groups. Thus supporting Arizona's goal that all students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in their postsecondary education and career.

Rio's Teacher Preparation Program is pleased to support the Race to the Top initiative of the state because the proposal capitalizes on strengths that are core to the State of Arizona and more importantly core to Rio Salado College; enhancement of STEM throughout all levels of the curriculum, recognition of cultural diversity, and a history of innovation.

We look forward to being a part of the RTT program and blending our program with the needs of the state of Arizona. We are eager to seeing how this program enhances the success of our students in Arizona classrooms.

Sincerely,
Janet Johnson, Ed.D
Chair, Department of Education