



ELLIS CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

NADINE BASHA

KAREN NICODEMUS

MARILYN HARRIS

JOHN LISCHER, ESQ.

STEPHEN D. MITTENTHAL, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 7, 2010

Honorable Jan Brewer
Office of the Governor
State of Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

Dear Governor Brewer:

I am pleased on behalf of the Ellis Center for Educational Excellence – a local foundation dedicated to improving the quality of education in Arizona – to support the state's RTT application for federal funding.

RTT is totally consistent with the mission and goals of the Ellis Center. By focusing on strategic education reform, Arizona's proposal would advance on a state policy level Ellis' operational initiative with the Creighton School District. That initiative embraces all the components specified in the RTT RFP.

The Ellis Center would welcome the state's active engagement in promoting district-wide comprehensive education reform. By instigating changes in state policies affecting standards and assessment, data systems, teacher quality and turn-around schools— to name a few – the RTT proposal would support our own commitment to long-term, district-wide systemic change and institutionalized capacity-building.

As part of the philanthropic sector, we welcome the opportunity to partner with others on comprehensive education reform. RTT can provide a catalytic stimulus to building systems and enacting reforms that can make a difference for Arizona's student population. We commend this effort to develop a statewide plan and resource capacity to improve the quality of public education in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Stephen Mittenthal, Ph.D.
Executive Director