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May 20, 2010

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

Dear Governor Brewer:

The Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC) supports the plan submitted for "Race to the Top" funding. We believe that our public schools are the foundation on which the state's economy and quality of life for all citizens depend.

The Arizona Plan offers the opportunity to encourage innovation and provide the training and support schools will need as they work to improve their systems to better support high levels of learning for all students, regardless of geographic location, neighborhood wealth, or choice of school.

To that end, SALC has examined the connection between funding and student learning; questioned whether or not Arizona has set credible and meaningful goals for students; explored transparency in the system and weighed the degree of flexibility in the use of resources to focus and enable the work of educators. We have engaged with local and state-wide education leaders and other community groups to examine relevant, meaningful goals for schools and have helped to both develop and encourage policy proposals that efficiently support all public schools and students, make room for innovation, and allow educators to deploy the best possible educational strategies to teach Arizona's children. The work of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council aligns well with the Race to the Top application.

It is clear that the results of the Arizona Plan will be integral to the success of transforming Arizona's school system. Our members stand firmly behind the principles upon which the Race to the Top funding has been built. We look forward to lending our support, not only to the application but to implementation of the actions that are required to make the Arizona plan successful.

Sincerely,


John Pedicone
Vice President