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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
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AND SOUTH ASIA

April 29, 2010

Secretary Arne Duncan  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202

RE: Search Institute Investing in Innovation Fund Proposal  
CFDA#: 84.396C (Development Grant)

Dear Secretary Duncan,

I am writing in support of Search Institute's application to the Office of Innovation and Improvement for funding under the Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Search Institute, in partnership with four public school districts: St. Louis Park (MN) Public Schools, Maine Regional School Unit #25, Maine School Administrative Unit #59, and the Hemet (CA) Unified School District are requesting \$5 million over a four year period to expand and replicate the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) Program.

The purpose of the program is to reduce academic failure, reduce truancy rates, decrease disciplinary incidents and decrease alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among 9th graders. The program has been implemented and evaluated for twelve years and has demonstrated powerful results in reducing risk behaviors (i.e. failures, illegal substance use, truancy) and increasing thriving behaviors. Academic failure rates have noticeably declined. Funding through i3 will be used to expand their program to additional sites, incorporate college and career readiness components and further evaluate program impact and efficacy.

I urge your support for this application and thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please keep my office informed of the status of this application by directing your correspondence to Darlynn Benjamin, a member of my district office staff, via email at [darlynn.benjamin@mail.house.gov](mailto:darlynn.benjamin@mail.house.gov), or fax at 612-522-9915.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Ellison".

KEITH ELLISON  
Member of Congress

Cc: Jon Terry, Search Institute