



January 27, 2009

Dear Members of the Colorado General Assembly:

Rose Community Foundation has based its grantmaking in education over the past decade on a simple premise: teachers make all the difference in the world, especially for low income students. To that end, we have supported professional development programs such as the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, teacher compensation reform efforts such as ProComp and, as this letter will address, the development of a statewide unique educator identifier system.

Over the years, Rose has given millions of dollars to support and advance teaching in our state. We are humbled and awed by how children respond to outstanding teaching. Like you, we have learned that great teaching is the result of many factors, including quality training and preparation, quality professional development and working conditions and pay systems that acknowledge results and opportunities for advancement in the profession. However, absent an important tool, the state of Colorado and individual school districts will never be able to collect, analyze and make available valuable data that will inform and improve teacher quality, allow us to determine its effects on student learning in many different ways, improve teacher preparation and professional development, and track the movement patterns of teachers to determine, as research across the country seems to suggest, whether high quality Colorado teachers migrate from low to high performing schools, leaving lower income students to confront what has come to be known as the teaching gap.

After more than a decade of work in the area of teaching quality, we have come to learn that a fundamental building block for ensuring that all of our state's students have great teaching is the unique identifier. To that end, Rose Community Foundation's Education Committee has identified the development of a unique educator identifier system as a top priority in 2009.

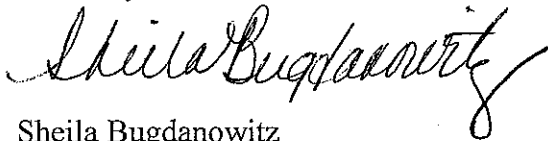
While I cannot guarantee that Rose's Board of Trustees will approve a grant, I can promise that we will entertain very seriously a proposal that seeks funding to advance the educator identifier and asks Rose to join a coalition of interested funders – whether private or governmental. In so doing, we encourage the General Assembly to authorize the expansion of the identifier statewide once the pilot's effectiveness is indicated and to place the fewest possible restrictions on the use of the data produced by the pilot and permanent implementation so that local boards of education in collaboration with their bargaining units can put it to the best possible use.

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Rose Community Foundation strongly supports the creation of a robust unique educator identifier pilot as a critical next step to understanding what actions are necessary to ensure the most effective and well-supported teaching force is in place in Colorado.

Thank you for your commitment to Colorado's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Bugdanowitz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sheila Bugdanowitz
President and Chief Executive Officer