Indiana State University
More. From day one.

Office of the President

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February 17, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations process, Indiana State University (ISU) respectfully submits for your consideration the Rural Algebra Project of Parke and Vermillion Counties and the Urban Algebra Project of Indianapolis.

The Center for Mathematics Education (CME) at ISU is designed to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics of all children, youth, and adults. To accomplish this purpose, CME engages in three simultaneous and interrelated activities. First, the center directly impacts the teacher development continuum from pre-service to beginning teacher induction and socialization into teaching and on through continued professional development. Second, the Center for Mathematics Education promotes and sustains an agenda of research designed to enhance the knowledge base of teaching and learning in mathematics education and to address problems of practice in teaching mathematics. Third, the Center for Mathematics Education, through its activities, promotes and enhances the learning of mathematics by all children and youth from preschool through graduate school by engaging in a coordinated outreach program touching schools and school districts throughout Indiana.

Building from the Center for Mathematics Education's pilot program within the Vincennes Community School Corporation, both the Rural Algebra Project of Parke and Vermillion Counties and the Urban Algebra Project of Indianapolis will provide elementary and secondary school students with the mathematical skills necessary to compete in the global economy. The initiatives are designed to ensure that mathematics teachers reach more students and that students achieve higher levels of performance in critical thinking and problem-solving. The program brings together mathematics educators from ISU and teachers from the counties to reform instructional organization and mathematics curriculum. Through collaborative strategies that draw on the experience and expertise of both local school teachers and ISU faculty, the partnership is implementing best practices in mathematics instruction, and developing new approaches to standards-based curricula. Although these approaches are designed to reach students facing significant challenges in mathematics, they will be transferable to special education classrooms as well as classrooms with high achieving students.

This initiative is dedicated to creating an environment and culture of inquiry and collaboration in mathematics education among faculty from ISU, in-service teachers, and pre-service teachers to strengthen the mathematics education of all students. The partnership between CME and the school districts is committed to providing programs and services that maximize each student's potential and meet the needs and expectations of the local community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Bradley
President