

February 1, 2010

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senate  
306 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

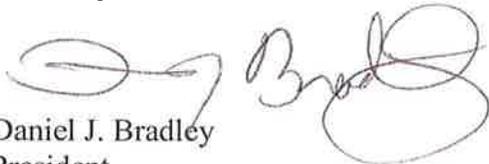
As the United States Senate begins the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations process, Indiana State University (ISU) respectfully submits for your consideration The Rural Algebra Project.

Building from ISU's Center for Mathematics Education's prior and current initiatives within the Vincennes Community School Corporation, the Rural Algebra Project for Parke and Vermillion counties will provide middle school students in five different rural school districts with the mathematical skills necessary to compete in the global economy.

The Rural Algebra Project for Parke and Vermillion is designed to ensure that mathematics teachers deepen their content knowledge and are able to differentiate instruction in order to 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 two rural Indiana counties to reform instructional organization and mathematics curriculum for middle and high school education. 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 also be transferable to special education classrooms as well as classrooms with high achieving students.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I greatly appreciate your support of Indiana State University and I look forward to working with you and your dedicated staff again this year. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

  
Daniel J. Bradley  
President