



DANIELS FUND

December 2, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Duncan,

Please allow me to express my support for Colorado's application submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant.

The Daniels Fund, where I serve as Senior Vice President of the Grants Program, has provided financial support for Governor Ritter's P-20 Council, the development of a teacher identifier, and many other critical K-12 education initiatives aimed raising the level of academic achievement of all Colorado students.

The data system outlined in this proposal will equip users to manage and use information for informed decision-making, ensuring that all students in Colorado are prepared for post-secondary education and the workforce. The foundation community in Colorado is consistently committed to initiatives to improve education; however, additional funds will be necessary to implement the system described in the Colorado Department of Education's SLDS proposal.

A grant from the U.S. Department of Education would pave the way for an effective data system that will help build knowledge and capacity among all of education's stakeholders. I am confident that Colorado is a valuable investment and thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Danbom
Senior Vice President, Grants Program
Daniels Fund