



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

September 11, 2007

THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable Donna Cooper  
Secretary of Planning & Policy  
Governor's Office  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Ms. Cooper:

It is my pleasure to inform you that Pennsylvania has been given an unprecedented opportunity to engage leadership from education, business, and government to enhance the commonwealth's educational competitiveness. Earlier this year, the nation's governors were encouraged to apply for the National Governor's Association (NGA) Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Center Grant Program to enhance the innovation capacity of their states to compete in this global, knowledge-based economy.

To leverage the leadership and resources of the commonwealth's business community, a partnership of the Departments of Labor and Industry, Education, and Community and Economic Development applied for a \$500,000 grant from the Team PA Foundation to directly match the NGA award. These grant processes were highly-competitive, with only 6 of 24 applicant states awarded the NGA grant. I am pleased to report that the commonwealth was successful in receiving both grants—totaling \$1,000,000 in funding from NGA and the Team PA Foundation.

As requested by NGA, Pennsylvania's grant proposal identified individuals who will provide valuable leadership and strategic vision for this important work. As a champion of the commonwealth's innovation capacity, economic competitiveness, and educational leadership, you have been selected as a crucial member of Pennsylvania's STEM Leadership Team. This Team will be supported by a Design Team, department staff, and a committee structure responsible for implementation during the award period. Logistical work is already well underway by the Design Team to ensure that we maximize the impact of these awards.

In the coming weeks, you will be contacted regarding your availability to attend the inaugural meeting of the Leadership Team. We will make the meeting brief and targeted—we do not intend to take too much of your time. I am certain you will agree that these awards and the partnerships they promise are exciting opportunities to enhance the educational and economic competitiveness of our state. Attached you will find the original proposal submitted to NGA by the commonwealth, and an Executive Summary of the STEM proposal for your review prior to the inaugural Leadership Team meeting.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving the opportunities for education and workforce development in the commonwealth. Your advocacy and expertise are critical to the success of this initiative, and I look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward G. Rendell".

Edward G. Rendell  
Governor

Attachment