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Date: 10/24/03 10:54AM
Subject: Strategic Education Research Partnership

Michael, Kelly,

I am the director of a project that has been underway for the past few years at the National Academy of Sciences, called The Strategic Education Research Partnership. The project was initiated by the Academy's President, Bruce Alberts, in response to his concern that scientific research has thus far offered so little to educational practice. We put together a very high profile committee of people from research, schools, and the business community to tackle a tough question: how could we create an organization that could bring the best research talent in the nation into a partnership with schools and classroom teachers to do rigorous research and development on the problems of classroom practice? At project completion, we have a report (called Strategic Education Research Partnership) that proposes a novel solution to the longstanding problems that have made the links between education research and practice so weak in the past.

The SERP argument is summarized in the attached document. A very novel feature is that the organization proposed would be created through a compact of state governments.

With the commitment of the President of the National Academies, and a leadership group from the committee (brief bios attached) we are now moving into a launch phase. As we draft the compact of states document, we are beginning to think about who among the Governors might provide early leadership. We presented the proposal at an ECS steering committee meeting, and Virginia Governor Mark Warner was quite taken with it. He wrote us a formal letter of endorsement. Our hope is to identify a few other governors with a history of strong leadership in the area of education who find this idea compelling enough to work toward. Governor Musgrove is one of those we'd very much like to involve early on.

Is there a time when I might speak with one or both of you by phone about the initiative? I can be reached either through an email response, or at the number below.

<<FAQ for Govsl.doc>> <<Biographical Sketches.doc>>
Thanks much,

Suzanne Donovan

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