



September 26, 2013

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

Established in 1888 and representing 2,600 businesses, the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce is Arizona's largest and most-established business organization. For Arizonans and our business community to enjoy economic prosperity, it is vital that our State's future workforce have the best educational opportunities at every stage in life.

As President and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, it is my pleasure to offer our support to the First Things First application for the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant Program.

This application is an opportunity to scale up systems which are currently in place or implement projects that have been identified and planned for in Arizona to support school readiness for high needs children.

The program will provide a strategic map which includes goal setting and implementation to achieve the targeted four outcomes through statewide collective action and partnership: (1) All children will have access to a quality early childhood education; (2) Improve the quality of early childhood educator's qualifications and skills; (3) Improve parent education activities related to early childhood growth and development; and, (4) Improve the health, safety, and inclusion standards in ECE.

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce and its thousands of members need a career-ready workforce. The business community understands the importance of having a world-class education system. Achieving a world-class system begins with investment in high-quality early learning opportunities for children from birth to age five.

Our organization shares your steadfast commitment to ensuring that Arizona's early learning system excels in the core areas that are the hallmark of our state's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge application:

- Promoting Early Learning and Development Outcomes for Children
- A Great Early Childhood Education Workforce
- Measuring Outcomes and Progress
- Encouraging Private Sector Support for Sustainable Arizona programs
- Accountability

Arizona's vision to ensure that all children have a solid foundation for success in school and in life is clearly reflected in the State's application for the Race to the Top/Early Learning Challenge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Todd Sanders'.

Todd Sanders
President & CEO
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce