

May 7, 2010

Dr. Randolph Ward
County Superintendent of Schools
San Diego County Office of Education
6401 Linda Vista Road
San Diego, CA 92111

Dear Dr. Ward:

The J. Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) is pleased to partner with the San Diego County Office of Education in support of its application for the federal Investing in Innovation (I3) grant focused on K-12 STEM Model Schools. As a pioneering organization in genomics, JCVI has a deep commitment to supporting K-12 STEM education, and looks forward to the opportunity to see its programs and resources strengthen the programs proposed within this I3 grant.

The Institute began providing science education opportunities in Maryland in 1998. Beginning with simple tours of our facilities and internships, the education program has grown into the DiscoverGenomics! (DG!) Science Education Program which includes a mobile laboratory program, laboratory kit loans, professional development, internships and hosting visits. Thousands of students and teachers have participated in these programs in Maryland. The Institute recently opened a research facility in San Diego, California, returning to Dr. Venter's alma mater. In addition to the established research facility, JCVI plans to develop and implement the DG! Science Education Program-CA.

Specific types of support that JCVI can provide include:

- Library of activities designed to engage and excite students' interest in careers in science;
- Professional Development through our Genomics Course for Educators which is a 30-hour program which exposes teachers to current genomic research and ways to incorporate the research into their classroom;
- Host visits for students and teachers at the Institute;
- Research experiences for teachers and students to help heighten their awareness and understanding in current STEM research;
- Provide scientists in the classroom to assist in the implementation of new activities with reagents and equipment.

The goals of the I3 Grant align with the Institutes Education Mission. Furthermore, the breaking down of the silos in academia reflects the current team work necessary to advance science today. We look forward to working with San Diego County Schools.

Sincerely yours,



Lisa A McDonald
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