



SAN DIEGO SUPERCOMPUTER CENTER  
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May 2, 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 San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC) at UC San Diego is eager 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*. SDSC has a deep and sustained 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.

Specific types of support that SDSC can provide include:

- Beginning through advanced training in use of *Moodle*<sup>™</sup> and other social networking and course management technology tools
- TeacherTECH professional development programs to enhance teachers' technology skills and help them to incorporate simulation, modeling, and data visualization tools and approaches (computational thinking) into STEM curricula
- Research experiences for teachers and students to help heighten their awareness and understanding of the role of computational skills in current STEM research;
- Mentors for student projects and judges for a Computational Science and Engineering award at the annual Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair, to encourage, support, and broaden student talent in computational sciences;
- StudentTECH programs during winter and spring breaks, to strengthen and expand student interests and skills in technology use and computational thinking;

- Outreach activities designed to encourage and facilitate students' interest and preparation for college and careers in science and technology.
- STEM research community connections for activities and events to enrich standards-based education with connections to current research
- The SDSC [DiscoverData](#) Portal for educators, enabling teachers to incorporate authentic research data and visualizations into standards-based curriculum
- Connections to successful K-12 computational science professional development programs nationwide through its well-established network of educators from national high-performance computing research resource centers.

The goals of the SDCOE I3 proposal echo SDSC's educational mission. We believe that by working together, researchers, educators, and technologists can improve STEM education at all levels. All can contribute to students' STEM conceptual understanding, discovery skills, foundational knowledge, and problem-solving abilities. We believe that the program proposed will significantly impact the number and diversity of students participating in science, technology, engineering and math-related careers.

This particular I3 grant will provide the participating districts with extensive professional development and an infusion of expertise from STEM professionals to develop and implement STEM model schools and support the districts' efforts to provide a rigorous 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning environment for students. Schools will be strengthened and students will benefit through this collaborative program to implement the effective practices and criteria for STEM Model schools.

As the Education Director of the San Diego Supercomputer Center, I am truly honored to serve in the "Leadership Commons" for this project. Speaking for both myself and my colleagues at SDSC, I affirm that we look forward to our partnership and the work we will be accomplishing together through this project.

Sincerely yours,



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