



Terdema L. Ussery, Esq.  
President &  
Chief Executive Officer

August 25, 2009

Re: State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Docket ID ED-2009-OESE-0007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's decision to include "College Proficiency Reporting" as one of the measures states must report on to demonstrate their progress in "improving both teaching and learning through higher standards and rigorous assessments." I can tell you that, as a former board member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, this is a much needed addition to our benchmarking criteria.

In order for our nation to remain competitive in the global arena, we need to know if our high schools are preparing students for our workforce, which increasingly requires at least some postsecondary education. College Proficiency Reporting is a step in the right direction.

As President & CEO of the Dallas Mavericks and CEO of HDNet, I know my organization's metrics: profit, loss, wins, losses, attendance, the overall achievement of our corporate goals, and others. With quality and meaningful data, I can understand what strategies are working and what strategies are not working. Increasing the nation's output of college-educated workers begins with improving the quality and transparency of our nation's reporting on college enrollment, college proficiency, and college success.

I commend Secretary Duncan for asking states to report "*the number and percentage of students by school who graduate high school and go on to complete at least one year's worth of college credit, as applicable to a degree, within two years.*"

This reporting requirement measures what really matters: how well high schools are preparing students to enroll in and graduate from college.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terdema L. Ussery II", written over a horizontal line.

Terdema L. Ussery II  
President and CEO, Dallas Mavericks  
CEO, HDNet

