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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 1, 1992

Dear Dr. Desmond:

Thank you for your letter of July 27 regarding the TRIO program in the Department of Education (ED) and its relation to Department of Energy (DOE) programs.

As part of the strategic plan to provide federal leadership in mathematics and science education, Federal agencies are directed to place special emphasis on increasing the participation and improving the performance of students from groups underrepresented in mathematics and science, including minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and the economically disadvantaged.

In response to this direction, there has been substantial contact over the past several years between program staff members in the two Federal departments, as well as in the field. Several of the DOE laboratories have had contacts with TRIO student groups. However, there are two basic problems in carrying out the expanded programs involving TRIO/ED and DOE collaboration suggested in your letter. One is the capacity of the laboratories. They are already at or near capacity in providing research and education appointments for precollege students in the summer.

The other problem concerns budget limitations in the context of conflicting priorities. Federal agencies are supporting actions other than the TRIO program addressed to the issues of underrepresented groups. These actions include minority teacher preparation and enhancement activities, development of mathematics and science curriculum materials sensitive to the diverse needs of students, and other comprehensive precollege programs. Teacher enhancement and preparation activities comprise a major priority toward which limited resources are directed.

Nevertheless, there are local challenges to addressing the problems of underrepresentation. The Department of Education has, in the past several years, added a special initiative to the Upward Bound program. Your university has been the recipient of a grant under this initiative, as I am sure you are aware. One of the critical parts of the of this initiative has been that each recipient of a grant shall establish cooperative relationships with other federally-funded programs for mathematics and science in its area. The critical point is that coordination is required at the local level with full support by the funding agencies. If your institution is experiencing particular success in this regard in the New England area, I would suggest that you share this success with other Upward Bound Mathematics and Science Regional Centers through the program staff in Washington.

Your efforts and the efforts of your university in this very critical area are widely recognized as providing significant leadership in programs for the disadvantaged in mathematics and science. I am deeply grateful for your contributions in addressing goals we share.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Allan Bromley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "D".

D. Allan Bromley
The Assistant to the President
for
Science and Technology

Dr. Charles F. Desmond
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