

Office of the Vice President: Office of Legislative Affairs

Interoffice Memorandum

TO:

☐ Community Empowerment Board	☐ Michael Feldman (OEOP 282)
☐ Karen Skelton, OEOP 115	☐ Mrs. Gore's Office
☐ Communications	☐ National Performance Review
☒ Domestic Policy <i>Berrany Little</i>	☐ Rob Kapla, CEQ (OEOP 360)
☐ Joanne Hilty, NSA	☐ Ron Klain, Chief of Staff
☐ Kim Harold, Scheduling	☐ Thurgood Marshall, Jr. (OEOP 160)
☐ Lee Ann Brackett	☐ West Wing Office
☐ Legal Counsel	☐ Other: _____
☐ Mary Margaret Overbey	

DATE: 11/12/99

RE:

- ☒ Please respond to the attached. Thank you. (Send copy for our files)
- ☐ Please cc: our office on your response to the attached. Thank you.
- ☐ Please call (O 224-8391; O 456-9003) regarding the attached. Thank you.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ Per your request. Please call (O 224-8391; O 456-9003) if we can be of any further assistance.
- ☐ Thank you for your immediate attention to the attached.
- ☐ Other: _____

For the Use of the OVP Scheduling Office

OVP Legislative Affairs	◇ No Opinion ◇ Recommend ◇ Highly Recommend ◇ Please consult _____
Scheduling Staff Contact	◇ Kim Harold or ◇ _____
Action Taken	◇ Regretted by telephone to _____ Date: _____
	◇ Regretted by letter (copy attached)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1005

November 2, 1999

The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I wish to call your attention to a measure of special interest to me and to my constituents which was contained in Conference Report 106-419, the D.C.-Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill.

For several years, I have worked closely with many others in the Georgia Congressional delegation to win funding for a unique and innovative proposal by Clayton College & State University (CCSU) that promises to reduce federal outlays by accelerating the transition from military service to civilian employment through the delivery of virtual training and education.

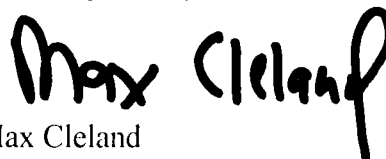
Indeed, this provision fits exceptionally well with your personal vision of technology which can improve government and increase our nation's productivity.

This proposal, which has been endorsed by a very large number of private-sector organizations, veterans groups and Members of Congress, will demonstrate how the delivery of Internet-based training can speed the transition of military personnel into good paying positions in the private sector using a public-private partnership and off-the-shelf software.

Conference Report 106-419 specifically earmarks \$ 1 million of Training and Employment Services funds from the Employment and Training Administration for this meritorious purpose. I would very much appreciate your efforts to ensure that the final appropriations measure for the Department of Labor includes this provision.

Thank you for your support in this important matter.

Most respectfully,



Max Cleland
United States Senator

MC:mra

October 27, 1999

The Honorable Gary Podesto
Chairman
San Joaquin County Council of Governments
Suite 400
6 South El Dorado Street
Stockton, California 95202

Dear Gary:

Thank you very much for your letter and the materials regarding San Joaquin A+. I was pleased to learn of your efforts to improve the lives of people in your community, and I'm sorry I was unable to respond sooner.

I firmly believe that education is the key to America's success. If we are to meet our generation's historic responsibility to create 21st century schools, we must recognize and address the many challenges facing them. I applaud you and your colleagues for your hard work in this endeavor. Efforts such as yours are helping to prepare our children for the 21st century.

As we continue working to create a better and brighter future for all our children, I'm glad to know I can count on your help. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/RMS/SH/DC/pw-bws (Corres. #4407561)
(9.podesto.g)

cc w/inc and outgoing to Bethany Little, 217

San Joaquin County Council of Governments



Member Agencies: Cities of Escalon, Lathrop, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, Tracy, County of San Joaquin

298927

March 12, 1999

President William J. Clinton
Executive Office of the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It was with great interest and encouragement that I listened to your State of the Union address. Your proposal for improving education in our country is commendable. I was especially interested in your Presidential Initiative to improve our Nation's high schools. We, in this community agree with you that we must move forward to provide a sound foundation for our students so they can compete in today's marketplace. We, in San Joaquin County, California, have started an initiative that I would like to tell you about and ask for your assistance.

A coalition of businesses, nonprofit groups and government agencies in our county have started an initiative called *San Joaquin A+*. The mission of the initiative is to enhance and improve the economic and social conditions by getting a higher percentage of children through an upgraded educational system. Five goals have been established: (1) All children start school ready to learn; (2) Every adult will be literate; (3) Every school will be free of drugs and violence; (4) High school graduation rates will be at least 90%; and (5) Students will achieve competency in challenging subject matter at different grade levels.

Our community faces many challenges to reach these goals. Almost 50 percent of the children who start kindergarten never graduate high school, illustrating a dire need for additional educational funds for our county. We have a large migrant worker population, multiple languages are spoken at area schools and we have a higher rate of poverty and drugs.

San Joaquin county has an unemployment rate of 12 percent as compared to the 6.6 percent for the State and 4.6 percent for the Nation. We have 53,003 Welfare to Work recipients which represents almost 10 percent of the total county population.

Attached is an issue paper describing our efforts to make our citizens more competitive in a future of high technology. We are working together to bring economic prosperity to our community but we need trained workers before these industries will come. This effort currently has organizational support from the business community which is providing time, energy and funds. The makings for an excellent private/public partnership are here.

MAR 19 1999

President Clinton Continued:

You can help. This is an ideal program to serve as demonstration project for your Presidential Initiative. You have in place a grass roots effort that endorses your Initiative and we would work very hard to provide the driving force in the improvement of our community schools.

Your consideration of our community to serve as model for the rest of the country will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me or Julia Greene, Executive Director for further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Podesto", written in a cursive style.

Mayor Gary Podesto
Chairman

San Joaquin A+

Community Consensus for K-12 Education in San Joaquin County

Education has been a key element in recruiting new companies to San Joaquin County in northern California. A coalition of businesses, nonprofit groups and government agencies have been working together in the county to enhance the education of youth through a program called San Joaquin A+.¹



The Mission

The mission behind San Joaquin A+ is to enhance and improve the economic and social conditions in San Joaquin County by getting a higher percentage of children through an upgraded educational system.

Leaders of San Joaquin A+ recognize that businesses looking to locate into a region evaluate a community and the type of education system available for the people that they will employ. The education level of potential employees is very important. Therefore, the people behind San Joaquin A+ felt it was vital for existing businesses to collaborate with the school system to achieve greater results for the long term.

Goals and Programs

Measurable outcomes are an important part of San Joaquin A+. From a comprehensive community survey, the group has set goals and developed strategies and programs in order to achieve long term results.

GOALS

- 1) All children start school ready to learn;
- 2) Every adult will be literate;
- 3) Every school will be free of drugs and violence;
- 4) High school graduation rates will be at least 90%;
- 5) Students will achieve competency in challenging subject matter at different grade levels.

PROGRAMS

- ★ Outreach efforts to pediatricians and clinics providing books for children
- ★ Book drives for elementary schools
- ★ Proposed neighborhood centers
- ★ Countywide recruitment and placement of reading tutors in K-6 schools

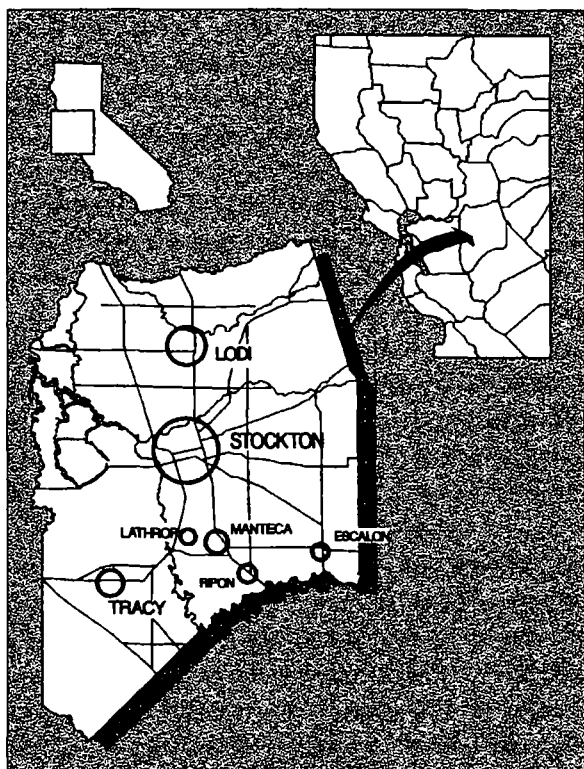
MEASUREMENTS

- ★ Implementing incident and conduct reports for each school district
- ★ Measuring literacy rates
- ★ Focusing on completion of basic competencies and ensuring early

¹"Education is Serious Business -- Community Leaders Offer Help": Cometock's, Feb. 1999

Challenges for San Joaquin County

Statistics from the county's eleven school districts show that 93 percent of high school seniors graduate, compared to a national graduation rate of 95.3 percent.² While these figures are comparable, San Joaquin A+ is focusing on the percentage of children who start kindergarten and actually finish high school. Estimates indicate that almost 50 percent of the overall group never graduates high school, illustrating the dire need for additional educational funds for San Joaquin County. Challenges in this arena include multiple languages spoken at area schools (oftentimes as many as 20 or more), a large migrant worker population, and a higher rate of poverty and drugs in San Joaquin County.



San Joaquin County – Location and Demographics

San Joaquin County is located in northern California, seventy-five miles east of San Francisco, fifty miles south of Sacramento, and seventy-five miles from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The county population is approximately 545,200 people. The majority of these people (245,000) live in Stockton, which is the county seat.³

The ethnic breakdown of the county population is 58.8% white, 23.4% Hispanic, 5.2% African-American, 11.6% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% other.⁴

There are more than 109,000 students in K-12 in the seventeen school districts within San Joaquin County. Of these seventeen school districts, seven districts are unified with Stockton Unified

School District being the largest with 34,000 students. Seven of the seventeen districts are small, rural, one-school districts with a student population between 173 students and 315 students.⁵

²San Joaquin County Office of Education; Census Bureau, School Enrollment, Oct. 1996

³San Joaquin Council of Governments, San Joaquin County demographics

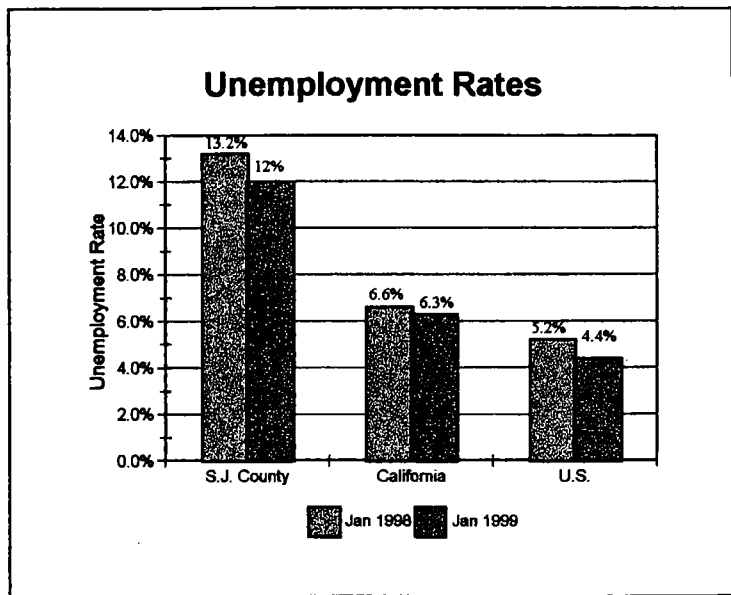
⁴San Joaquin County Office of Education, 1998

⁵San Joaquin County Office of Education, 1998

San Joaquin County Unemployment and Poverty

While San Joaquin County has made inroads on the economic front, our unemployment rate at 12 percent is still high, compared to rates of 6.3 percent for the state and 4.4 percent for the nation.⁶ And, our Welfare to Work Program shows a total of 53,003 CalWorks recipients, representing almost 10 percent of the total county population (545,200).⁷

Moreover, the number of poor people in San Joaquin County, at 18.6 percent of our total county population, is even higher than the 17.4 percent of poor people in California overall.⁸



What Will Help?

Funds are needed in order to assist the programs and to help build the infrastructure to reach the ultimate goal of San Joaquin A+: an overall improvement in San Joaquin County's social and economic climate. While San Joaquin County has made strides in education, it is still hampered by problems such as poverty, unemployment, and drugs. San Joaquin A+ is getting the business community involved to tackle these problems and work with school districts and boards to augment and improve the quality of educational services for San Joaquin County. We need your help.

"I don't know what the future holds,
but I know who holds the future."

Martin Luther King

Contact

For More Information, contact:

Julia E. Greene, Executive Director
San Joaquin Council of Governments
6 S. El Dorado Street, Suite 400
Stockton, CA 95202
209-468-3913

⁶U.S. Labor Dept., California Employment Development Dept.

⁷San Joaquin County's Human Services Agency CalWorks Demographics for November 1998

⁸Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program, Bureau of the Census

Lori Keith H-Class
521 Medford Court
Orlando, Florida
32825



Dear Vice President Gore,

Recently you visited my Kindergarten classroom at Ventura Elementary School in Orlando, Florida. I am writing to you for several reasons.

First I would like to say thank you so much for the way you interacted with the children! You spent time at each table, sat on the floor with them and took the chance they would smear you with ink, paint other materials. I worked for the previous four years in a high profile inner city school and have had the wonderful opportunity to have many visitors come into my classroom. Some were politicians (including Senator Bob Graham and then education commissioner Frank Brogan), some were business leaders, some educators. The two that stand out in my mind because of their friendly demeanor with the children, because they sat on the floor with the children, because they touched the messy paint and ink, because they were interested in what the children were DOING, and because they asked pertinent questions of the children and were interested in teacher's opinions as education professionals are yourself and Senator Graham. Many people come, look and expect to see perfect quiet robotic children. Many stand in the back of the room and are not comfortable interacting. Many are not interested in the educators professional opinion. Many are curious and interested in all that is going on. You were one of these people. I was very impressed.

Secondly, I would like to express my opinion that visitors should be able to come into my or any classroom at any time of the day. Not to see a performance but to see how the children perform their activities every day. I see this as an opportunity to educate others as to why it is a wonderful thing that the children are talking, as to why it is necessary to have blocks, housekeeping, recess and other "play areas" in a classroom, as to why special education children should be mainstreamed. I see that as an opportunity to explain the academics behind various activities. I hope visitors such as yourself see it as an

opportunity to learn how academics should be taught in an appropriate manner. I am glad to see people take the opportunity to learn about appropriate educational methods.

Thirdly, I would like to express my excitement that policy makers are coming into the classrooms to see what is needed. I feel that it is important they learn and inquire and find out what professionals in the field feel is necessary to make each individual child's educational experience as successful as possible. I would like to take the opportunity at this moment to share some ideas that I think would make a positive impact on the education process. I am sure you have heard many of these before but I feel it pertinent to share the ideas with you.

1. **Smaller class sizes: in every classroom we have.** Not an average in each school. In every single classroom. Not only would this provide more time to each child for instruction but less children in a confined area will lessen discipline problems significantly. Mainstreaming children such and children with autism (one of the children in our class is and is doing a wonderful job,) Downs Syndrome, learning disabilities etc. would be made much easier. In early childhood classrooms there should be no more than 15 children.

2. **Class Materials** - individual teachers should be able to decide and order the supplies they need for their own classroom. (I must add that my principal does this and I feel very fortunate to be provided with many of the necessary materials I need to operate my classroom in an appropriate manner.) For example, ordering one specific basal series with workbooks for an entire school is simply a waste of money. Many of us will never use a workbook or need a class set of basals. I feel that I know exactly what I need in my classroom and am the best one to order. Another teacher may want those workbooks but not the manipulatives and stamps and paint that I would use the money for. Both teachers can be equally as effective. In addition, the purchase of entire programs that stop teachers from being able to formulate their own lessons and plans is the equivalent of telling us that our degrees and years of experience have taught us nothing. I personally feel that both of my degrees and my experience has enabled me to be the best one to decide on the needs in my classroom.

3. Professional Salaries - 10 years experience, a Masters degree and \$30,000 a year. Need I say more? Well I will. We lose good teachers because salaries are so low. We definitely lose men that would choose to teach. Engineers with a bachelors degree can start at 40 to 50 thousand a year. Teachers that may have stayed in the classroom become administrators because of the monetary increase. I watch the news and see every night that women are paid less than men and the current administration wants to fix that. Here is a thought - the teaching field is predominately women. Could it be that we still have a low salary base because when teaching became considered a profession it was predominately women and salaries were always lower and that was considered normal? Teaching needs to be considered at the same level as other professions that require degrees. Master and Doctorate degrees should be worth more monetarily than coaching. (As important as I think our extracurricular activities are I do think our degrees are worth more.)

4. Facilities - Early childhood classrooms should be large, have windows, bathrooms, partial carpet, easels, water areas, sand areas, accessible playgrounds, etc. I am sure the high school teachers could tell you what they need. That brings me to my last suggestion:

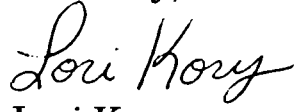
5. When policy makers form educational policies teams of **teachers who are in the classroom every day** should be formed and involved in this process. In all reality you should have a team for each grade level. I could go to town on Kindergarten but would not be nearly as effective for high school or fifth grade or even first grade. Each grade level is significantly different and there are wonderful professionals all over the country to be used as a resource.

Again, I would like to thank you for your visit. The children were excited and it provided them with a great experience to write about for the next week! I was also excited to show off Kindergarten and good early childhood practices.

Also, thank you for your work on the environmental front. I find this issue of extreme importance and it is, quite honestly, the first issue I

look at when voting. I hope you continue your efforts on behalf of the environment and thank you for it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Kory". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lori Kory