



The McGuffey Project

Children. Community. Communications. Change.

April 29, 1998

To: Tanya Martin

From: Eileen Kean, Project Coordinator

Dear Tanya:

I enjoyed talking to you yesterday and I appreciate all the help you can provide in promoting the 21st Century Teachers Project for a White House announcement. The Administration has repeatedly expressed a major commitment to the importance of educational technology in America's classrooms, and more recently a great concern that teachers need to be a focal point of making this commitment effective for real educational reform.

21st Century Teachers is a privately-funded network of teacher leaders, providing them with the knowledge, best practices and tools they need to use technology effectively, and encouraging them to help other teachers. It is a membership-driven, teacher-oriented movement. Teachers will first meet us through our brand new Website/Intranet, which will facilitate the creation of a community of teacher leaders who communicate with each other, share best practices, develop course content online, and gain access to the resources they need to be effective education leaders in their schools and communities.

The 21st Century Teachers Network today is a group of over 6,000 self-selected teacher leaders, with membership expected to reach some 100,000 teachers by the year 2000. These teachers use new technologies in their classrooms everyday, are eager to continue learning and experimenting with education technology and are committed to assisting their colleagues in their efforts to understand and implement educational technology.

Our membership includes, leading teachers from across the country, including the members of the 21st Century Teachers Network's steering committee (NEA, AFT, National Association of School Boards, TECH CORPS, Software Publishers, ISTE). Our key private funder of the network is the University of Phoenix who contributed a million dollars.

In 1996 the President participated in announcing the 21st Century Teachers Network to assist teachers in mastering these new technologies and helping their colleagues to do so as well. Nearly 4,000 teachers agreed to be 21st Century Teachers almost immediately. However, the effort had neither the funding nor the staff to provide true value to the members and to recruit other teachers to the cause. Last year, the Project's steering committee asked the McGuffey Project to take it over and make it happen. We completed the planning process and raised the money, thanks to the grant from the University of Phoenix. This grant has not been publicly

announced yet, because Don Gips suggested that we hold the announcement for a White House event.

We look forward to working with the White House to make a powerful statement about the Administration's commitment to teachers and the vitality of the 21st Century Teachers Network in this effort. We would be happy to work with you to identify teachers to participate in an announcement, do whatever work is necessary to make it a success, and look forward to speaking with you further about how we make this a reality.

Many thanks for your help!