

Dear (personalize),

Science education reform for grades K-12 is a critical issue for Indiana; one that directly affects our community and economy. Continuing flat scores on our student's achievement tests in science are a cause for concern as we compete in a tough global economy and as we work to maintain the 500,000 skilled jobs in the life sciences and healthcare sector in Indiana.

I recently attended the Science Summit, an event that attracted educational, community and corporate leaders from across the state to discuss the critical need for science education reform in Indiana schools. Several experts spoke about the students in our state and how we compare to other areas in the U.S. and globally. I learned a great deal about what it will take for our region to improve science education. We have work to do and it will require a collaborative effort from the entire village— philanthropic organizations, corporations, business owners, teachers, administrators, parents, government officials and students.

I'd like you to join me in this effort to improve our science education, which in hand will improve our community, our schools, our economy and our future, but most importantly, will empower our children to succeed. When students excel, the entire community feels the impact through a stronger workforce, a more robust economy and an overall better quality of life.

School districts throughout the state will be adopting science curricular materials in 2011 that will be used by science teachers for the next six years. This provides an opportunity for us to adopt new, research-supported materials, which will improve student learning and positively impact our community for years to come.

On February XX, leaders from our community will meet to determine what resources are available in our area and which resources are needed to reform science education. At this meeting we will:

- establish curriculum adoption plans
- address professional development strategies for our teachers
- identify logistics for distribution of science kits
- determine available funding and funding needs

If you are interested in being involved in this meeting or sending someone from your organization, please call INSERT NAME HERE. Or if you are able to commit resources to the cause (i.e., equipment, funding, volunteers, warehouse space, etc.), please go to www.indianascience.org to learn more about the immediate need and how you can be involved.

It's crucial we get involved this year, which has been deemed "The Year for Science Education Reform". This is an issue that cannot be addressed by the educational network alone, but must also be supported by the larger community of business people, entrepreneurs, researchers, healthcare professionals -- people like you.

Please contact me directly if you have questions about Indiana's science education reform efforts or ways in which you can help.

Best regards,