



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HATTIE MAE WHITE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
3830 RICHMOND AVENUE · HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027-5838

KAYE STRIPLING, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

October 5, 2001

Ken Kennedy
Director, Center for High Performance Software Research
MS - 41
Rice University
6100 S. Main St.
Houston, TX 77005

Dear Ken;

As Superintendent of Schools in the Houston Independent School District (HISD), I am eager for our students, parents, and teachers to participate in the educational programs of the proposed National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center (STC)'s, Center for Grid Application Development Software (CGrADS), to be headquartered at Rice University. Even though Houston has made dramatic strides in recent years and is a sterling example of a multicultural learning community, our students continue to be underrepresented among those who pursue academic (and, subsequently, professional) careers in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology.

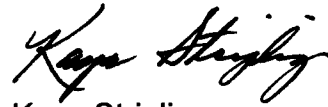
The district is making significant progress in science and mathematics reform. Two and a half years ago, the National Science Foundation awarded HISD funding through its Urban Systemic Initiative (USI) program. Richard Tapia, Educational Director of CGrADS, played a major role in bringing about our success and continues to serve as Advisory Board Chair. One of the goals of Houston's USI is to significantly improve teaching and learning that leads to high achievement in challenging science, mathematics, and technology courses by all students, enabling significantly more students to pursue careers in the sciences. The proposed programs of CGrADS support this goal and will leverage those efforts significantly. I believe both the USI and CGrADS programs will be mutually enhanced by each other's existence.

HISD and Rice University have a long and successful record of working together. Rice University is highly esteemed by our city for its high level of scientific pursuit and by our teachers for its exemplary teacher professional development. You, Richard, and I have worked closely over the years, and I look forward to continuing this relationship for the betterment of HISD and its students. The following are just two of our notable past projects.

- Professional development program for all teachers in the new Rice School supported by \$100,000 grant developed by Ken Kennedy
- Intensive technology professional development for close to 350 HISD teachers through workshops sponsored by Kennedy and Richard Tapia

I welcome, without reservation, the resources that this program will bring to our schools. HISD is ready and eager to collaborate on this innovative endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kaye Stripling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kaye Stripling
Superintendent of Schools