



September 16, 2010

Eric Cooper
[National Urban Alliance](#)
33 Queens Street, Suite 100
Syosset, NY 11791

Dear Eric,

Thank you so much for joining us on August 30th for our Eden Prairie Schools Kick-Off Event as we prepared for a year of *Commitment, Collaboration, and Celebration*. I have admired your good work for many years, and sincerely appreciated your inspiring message to our staff. I still receive remarks from so many who were impressed with your stories and experiences. As we continue our work and journey, your testimonies inspired us to stay on a path worth taking.

Our mission at Eden Prairie Schools to *Educate for Success in Our Diverse and Changing World* can be met with the inspiration you give us. Even with our successes, we will continue to work toward what is right: an equitable education for all of our learners. As a District, we are committed to the belief that all are entitled to achieve at high levels. Your anecdotes of connecting with students in a personal way to encourage them toward their own successes, is precisely what we are working to do. As evidenced in our back-to-school video, we've made significant and historic progress toward eliminating the gap among student subgroups, and if the trends continue, we well may be one of the districts which is first to remove the stigma of the omnipresent "achievement gap" by 2014. Your reference to the hope provided by neuroscience research and its applications, reinforced with our staff the foundations for how to use cognitive and cultural pedagogy in the classroom. Each recommendation you shared sustains the ongoing work NUA provides in our district as part of the desegregation

initiative "Choice Is Yours" of WMEP.

I hope that we can call upon you again. Your work has, and will continue to, make a difference for our community and others across the country. Thank you again for your insight and contributions as we begin the 2010-2011 school year. You are remarkable--and changing lives for many!

Gratefully,
Melissa Krull, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Eden Prairie Schools
