August 6, 2003

Dear Dr. Dalton,

The Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) Corporation is pleased to support and endorse the submission of Indiana State University’s (ISU) Teacher Quality Enhancement (TQE) grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education. The university’s focus on preparing PK-12 teachers to enhance student learning through rigorous standards will greatly benefit the learning of IPS students. IPS has had a successful, long-standing partnership with ISU. Through the IPS/ISU Professional Development Schools Partnership, ISU has strongly supported the continued professional growth of teachers and administrators.

We are very excited by the university’s plan in the TQE proposal to expand the IPS/ISU Professional Development Schools Partnership. This plan includes: a) a clinically based preparation program for teachers, b) a professional growth program for teachers that focuses on deep understanding of content and standards-based instructional practices, and c) a leadership program that engages current and future building leaders in activities that foster exemplary skills in building learning communities at the school level. Each of these components is critical to the academic success of our students.

We applaud the commitment of the ISU School of Education faculty and the College of Arts and Sciences faculty to partner more closely to enhance the skills of teachers. This partnership will further enhance our teachers’ knowledge and skills in the content areas and will support students’ learning to high levels as they prepare to move into the work force or into higher education.

In addition, ISU will provide through the TQE grant mentor training to IPS teachers in the PDS sites as required by the Indiana Professional Standards Board. This will greatly assist the district in training more teachers as mentors than previously anticipated.

We are pleased to expand our positive relationship with Indiana State University through the Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant and we are committed to assist in any way in making this project a success.

Sincerely yours,

Duncan N.P. Pritchett, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent