



Mr. Bruce Barcelo, Chairperson
MountainTop Institute
100 Festival Park Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Bruce,

I am writing to thank you and other members of the Board of Directors of MountainTop Institute, for the support and encouragement you are providing the new Council on Educational Equity and Inclusion of Duval County Public Schools.

I have publicly stressed that this Council is a groundbreaking initiative; further, it is—as I understand it—the only organization in the country formed by teachers, students, principals, administrators and executives to help a major school organization address critical issues arising from cultural differences. As a member of the Council, I have seen and participated in a release of creativity and energy around issues of inclusion that is truly remarkable. The Council will certainly help this system with its goal of eliminating the racial gap in educational outcomes, as well as achieving its broader goals of increasing awareness, skill and institutional capacity to value all human differences.

MountainTop has been vital to the success of the Council and to its flying start. I deeply appreciate the commitment of your staff. They are guiding us through a challenging process with skill and sensitivity.

I want to add a personal thanks to your board for contributing more than \$8,000 for the production of "It's Time," the video program describing the Council's purpose and goals. I also want to thank you for all your support and encouragement—both are making a huge difference on this journey!

Thanks again for all your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Wise".

Joseph Wise

JW:sj

Joseph Wise, Superintendent of Schools

Duval County Public Schools is committed to providing high quality educational opportunities that will inspire all students to acquire and use the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in a culturally diverse and technologically sophisticated world. — Adopted February 3, 1998