

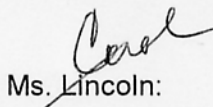


UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

October 27, 2006

Ms. Carol Lincoln
Senior Staff Associate
MDC, Inc.
PO Box 17268
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-7268


Dear Ms. Lincoln:

I am writing to state our intention to have the State of Hawai'i participate in the Achieving the Dream national initiative. The University of Hawai'i Community College System (UHCC) is an integral part of the University of Hawai'i system, the sole state entity responsible for setting public postsecondary education policy in the state.

We have a sizable Native Hawaiian population across the state who increasingly enrolling in our colleges, but who have persistently underperformed other groups of students in measures such as persistence, transfer, and graduation. There are several major institutions within the state that play leadership roles within the Hawaiian community. These include the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a semi-autonomous agency established by the state in 1978 that is the official representative for indigenous Hawaiians, and Kamehameha Schools, a major educational trust founded by the will of Bernice Pauahi Bishop, great-granddaughter and last royal descendant of Kamehameha the Great. Both of these entities have expressed a desire to participate as partners with us in this initiative and both have the resources necessary to assure adequate financial support over the five years of planned activities.

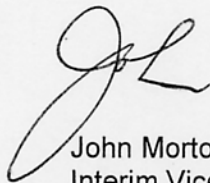
The contact person with authority to engage in planning with Lumina and MDC, Inc. is:

Mr. Michael Rota
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i Community Colleges
2327 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: 808-956-7471 E-Mail: mrota@hawaii.edu

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges (UHCC) system is comprised of seven colleges located throughout the state. Unlike most states, we are a single administrative entity,

responsible for policy, planning, budgeting, reporting, and program implementation through our seven colleges. For major initiatives, such as Achieving the Dream, we have successfully organized systemwide workgroups with participation from each college and the UHCC system. We are planning to organize a similar approach if we are selected to participate in the Achieving the Dream initiative. While this approach will involve more individuals in the process than the examples cited in the published guidelines, we will be able to handle those additional costs through the resource commitments from our partners and our own internal sources. Over the five years of the project, we believe that the total resources needed to implement this statewide consortium approach will be approximately \$1,500,000. It is our analysis that a commitment of \$100,000 per year from each of our partners as well as \$100,000 per year (both financial and in-kind staff support) will be sufficient to assure a successful outcome. We believe this approach to organizing the participation of our colleges is critical to the success of any implementation activities, and will provide the greatest impact on the students whose future success is dependent upon improved institutional practices and services.

The University of Hawai'i Community Colleges and our partners are looking forward to working with you and the other states as part of this important initiative.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JL' with a large loop and a trailing flourish.

John Morton
Interim Vice President for Community Colleges

- c. Associate VP Michael Rota
Associate VP Michael Unebasami
UHCC Chancellors