



COLORADO
Department of Education
Commissioner of Education

201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Marilyn Turner, Executive Director
Colorado International Teachers' Exchange League
3449 Trenary Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

August 26, 2014

Dear Ms. Turner:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the 2015 Teacher Exchange program with Canada and Australia. This is an important and needed service in Colorado. The program allows fully qualified, licensed teachers to exchange jobs and living accommodations for a period of time. As Colorado continues to prepare its students to live and work in a global community, the Teacher Exchange program provides a unique opportunity to educate and inform our teachers and our schools about education in other countries.

I believe it is important for Colorado teachers to experience the educational system in another country by living and teaching there. My understanding from teachers who have participated in this program is that this opportunity allows them to gather a deeper understanding of how other countries' educational systems work as well as become thoughtful about their own teaching practices. This is information they share with their school administrator and fellow teachers upon their return.

Students and schools who receive a teacher from another country also benefit. Because the visiting educator is at the school for an extended period of time, they can share information about their home country and compare it to the day-to-day experiences they have in Colorado. Students receive a deeper level of understanding about another country through the exchange teacher. The school also benefits from discussions and modeling between the teachers.

Thank you for continuing this important work.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Hammond
Commissioner of Education

