

INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



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**The Honorable Ember Reichgott Junge**  
**Assistant Majority Leader**  
**The Minnesota Senate**  
**205 State Capitol**  
**75 Constitution Ave.**  
**St. Paul, MN 55155**

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**Re: Charter School Law  
Application #327**

**Dear Senator Junge:**

**Congratulations. I am pleased to inform you that your program has been chosen as a finalist in the 2000 Innovations in American Government Awards Program. Please bear in mind that the public announcement of finalist status is contingent on a successful site visit, which will be conducted in the next six weeks.**

**Your program is one of 25 finalists selected from among 96 semifinalists and from among more than 1300 initial applicants. The Innovations National Selection Committee will select the ten Innovations Award winners in October. The Committee's final selection will be based on your applications, on a report prepared by an Innovations site visitor, and on a presentation by your program representatives.**

**This binder contains the information you need for the upcoming site visit and preliminary information about your presentation before the National Selection Committee in October. In addition to information on the awards competition, in this binder you will find information about the mission of the Program, its partners, the grant process, communications and outreach strategies. Also, please read carefully, and feel free to disseminate within your organization, the attached letter from the Ford Foundation. It provides a clear summary of the process and expectations of the Program for finalists.**

An Awards Program  
of the Ford Foundation  
and Harvard University

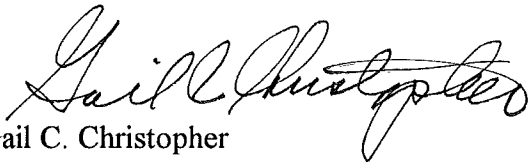
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Public announcement of the 2000 Innovations Award finalists will not occur until late August. To ensure the best coverage possible, we ask that you hold the release of any information about your finalist status until after the press release date. Manning, Selvage & Lee, a public relations firm, will coordinate announcements to national, regional, and local press.

If you have any questions on matters other than public relations, please do not hesitate to contact Cathy Sarkis or me at (617) 495-0557.

Congratulations once again, and our very best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gail C. Christopher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gail C. Christopher  
Executive Director

cc:           The Honorable Jesse Ventura  
              Governor  
              State of Minnesota  
              130 State Capitol  
              St. Paul, MN 55155