



10/23/2017

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**Welcome to the Students at the Center Challenge — Uniting schools, communities, and initiatives in our networks to plan a better future for students!**

If you are receiving this announcement, your community is eligible to apply for a planning grant of up to \$150,000 to advance a student-centered learning system. Approximately 10 communities may receive this award. At the end of a six-month planning period, three communities also may be selected to receive implementation grants, while others may be eligible for capacity-building grants and support. All eligible communities will be invited to participate in a convening this January to help prepare their proposals.

The Coalition for Community Schools, Communities In Schools, and StriveTogether (the Collaborating Partners) made a commitment last December to align our efforts to achieve better outcomes for young people. With the support of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and the Ford Foundation, we are bringing that commitment to life through the Students at the Center Challenge (Challenge).

**What do we envision for Student-Centered Learning?**

Every student will have at their fingertips the high-quality opportunities and supports they need to learn and thrive — from a robust engaging curriculum to health and wellness services; from strong family support to high-quality mentoring and enrichment opportunities; and from work-based learning experiences to college readiness activities. Families, educators, and community partners work together to ensure that the situation of every individual student in public schools is carefully considered and addressed.

The attached *framework paper* lays out our initial framework for building student-centered learning systems, and provides additional details about the implementation process and how your community can participate and potentially receive funding. Please read this brief, talk with other local allies, and join us for an introductory webinar from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, to learn more about how your community might mobilize its stakeholders to participate.

**Letter of Intent to participate in the Challenge and the Convening**

Communities interested in pursuing the challenge need to follow this [link](#) and enter contact information for the Lead Organization. On November 1, the web-based LOI will be released on this site. LOIs are due Friday, December 8, 2017. Each community submitting a complete LOI will be invited to attend the Students at the Center Challenge convening in January 2018 to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

In Partnership,

A black ink signature of Jose Munoz, which is a stylized, flowing script.

A blue ink signature of Dale Erquiaga, which is a stylized, flowing script.

Jose Munoz  
Coalition for Community Schools  
Institute for Educational Leadership

Dale Erquiaga  
Communities In Schools

Jennifer Blatz  
StriveTogether