June 17, 2015

PAESMEM Program Officials
Division of Human Resource Development
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 815
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Program Officials,

The UTeach Outreach Program at the University of Texas at Austin has served the Austin Independent School District since it’s inception. I have witnessed thousands of bright enthusiastic university students over the years inspire tens of thousands of our children to love science and math. The Outreach mentors and volunteers are obviously well prepared and the lessons are designed and aligned with our district goals and objectives due to the collaboration that we have with the UTeach Outreach Program staff. Hundreds of students are also exposed to the university campus though the field trips that Outreach provides.

I appreciate that the Outreach staff contacts me at the beginning of each year to gather requests for services. I routinely ask for that our campuses with the most need and those with a large teacher or administrator turnover be served first.

Austin ISD serves over 84,000 students; approximately 60% of which are Hispanic and 8% are African American. About 60% of our student population is economically disadvantaged and 30% are English Learners. At our 129 schools, we seek to provide a comprehensive education experience that is high quality, challenging, and inspires all students to make a positive contribution to society. In doing so, the District partners with universities, community organizations, and business/industry. UTeach Outreach is a great partner to Austin ISD and allows the District to offer expanded opportunities and experiences to our students.

This invaluable program allows these Austin ISD students to access a wealth of STEM information and opportunities otherwise inaccessible.

Sincerely,

Ariel Cloud
Area Superintendent
Austin ISD