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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 22, 2002

The Honorable Doug Hart  
State Representative  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Doug:

I always want to be supportive of programs that stretch the horizons of Michigan students. That is why I am endorsing the work of the International Youth Initiative, a product of Michigan Civics Institute (MCI). Thank you for the leadership you have contributed to make this a reality for Michigan's children.

The International Youth Initiative will serve Michigan students in several ways. First, by connecting with other students from around the world, our young people will participate in a program that acquaints them with issues of global importance. Second, through the "virtual tours" and other opportunities to learn about other cultures, Michigan students will find that there is indeed a world beyond our borders – a world that is having an ever-increasing impact upon our own state. Third, much like MCI's Michigan Youth Caucus, students will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual civics program that not only helps them learn about the legislative process, but allows them to impact that very process as well.

Modern technology affords us the opportunity to interact with others from around the globe on a virtual "real-time" basis. The International Youth Initiative optimizes this technology in creative and thoughtful ways. It has the potential of connecting individuals in a way that was only imaginable a short time ago. Now, learning from the global classroom is only limited by our imaginations.

I have been impressed with the Michigan Civics Institute's success. Under your leadership, I am confident that the same expertise and commitment will be evident in bringing the International Youth Initiative to reality. I pledge my wholehearted support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Watkins, Jr.

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