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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

October 28, 2011

Mr. Paolo DeMaria
Principal, Education First Consulting
P.O. Box 22871
Seattle, Washington 98122-0871

Dear Mr. DeMaria:

I am writing to express my support for Massachusetts' application for funding through the Common Core State Standards and Assessments: K-12/Postsecondary Alignment Grant. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is deeply committed to advancing educational opportunity for all of its students by helping them achieve high standards that meet the changing intellectual and professional demands of a 21st century world and economy, which includes increasing their participation and success in postsecondary education.

Through this letter, I designate the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) as the lead agency responsible for the overall management, implementation and monitoring of this new funding opportunity, working in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education.

I am deeply appreciative of this grant opportunity provided by the Lumina Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. I urge you to give Massachusetts' application your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over a large, stylized flourish.