



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

SEP 13 2011

Dear Colleague,

This academic year, as part of an Administration-wide emphasis on youth entrepreneurship, the U.S. Department of Education is encouraging students to come up with innovative ideas for improving education and increasing student success, and we'd like your help [spreading the word](#).

Our first effort this fall is in cooperation with the [World Series of Innovation](#) competition, a project of the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). As part of the World Series of Innovation, which was announced on September 8 and culminates with Global Entrepreneurship Week in November, NFTE and the U.S. Department of Education are inviting middle school and high school students to develop their own ideas – whether for-profit or non-profit – to promote college and career readiness. Winning students will be recognized and receive awards.

All teachers and counselors working with middle school and high school students are eligible to participate. Registration and a free toolkit are available at www.nfte.com/innovation.

Our purpose in this work, which will continue throughout the academic year in cooperation with a number of Federal and non-Federal partners, is to harness students' talents and creative energy to solve problems in education and help achieve President Obama's goal of being the best-educated country in the world. Future collaborative activities will include incorporating a "college and career readiness" theme into business plan competitions across the country, including on college campuses. This builds on the Department's commitment to engage students that started with a National Youth Listening tour throughout 2010 and the first-ever [National Youth Summit in February 2011](#).

We hope you'll refer middle school and high school teachers and counselors to www.nfte.com/innovation and be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities. Please contact NFTE with any questions about the World Series of Innovation initiative. To share ideas about working with the Department of Education on student entrepreneurship to promote college and career readiness, please contact Scott.Hess@ed.gov.

Thank you for considering being part of this project, and thank you for all your hard work on behalf of our nation's students.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lee Miller
Director
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