



## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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May 2, 2012

Ms. Robin Czarnopys  
AT&T Foundation  
130 East Travis Street  
Suite 350  
San Antonio, TX 78205

Dear Ms. Czarnopys:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the grant proposal submitted by Greater Twin Cities United Way (GTCUW) for **Destination Success** to the AT&T Foundation's **Aspire Local High School Impact Initiative**. GTCUW requests \$300,000 to implement Destination Success, a partnership between GTCUW, Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), and the City of Saint Paul designed to improve school retention, promotion, and graduation rates among students with severe emotional, social and behavioral disorders.

Destination Success is well-aligned with my goals of Saint Paul being a national model for community-wide learning, where every child and adult will have access to quality learning opportunities, and all youth will be ready for college and career. Through the Destination Success initiative, the partners will increase the rigor and relevance of curricular programming at Journeys Secondary School, an alternative education setting for SPPS students in grades 7 through 12 who qualify for special education services because they have been diagnosed with emotional and behavioral disorders, struggle in traditional school settings and have been identified as being at high risk of dropping out of school. This program will not only improve graduation rates and college/career-readiness for participating students who are most at-risk of dropping out, but it will also provide a model for similar programs at the Saint Paul District level and perhaps throughout the metropolitan Twin Cities region.

Greater Twin Cities United Way will provide high-level coordination and technical assistance to support SPPS and the City of Saint Paul in their efforts to partner more effectively to meet the ongoing needs of struggling students. The City of Saint Paul will be responsible for facilitating career-readiness pathways for students involved in the project, while SPPS will design and implement the alternative project-based curriculum that is the focus of Destination Success.

The City of Saint Paul fully supports the efforts of Greater Twin Cities United Way as they seek external funding to support this initiative targeting the most at-risk middle and high school students in the Saint Paul community. We look forward to collaborating on this work.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman  
Mayor, City of Saint Paul