



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

390 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone: 651-266-8510

January 25, 2016

Dear Carol Coletta,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Saint Paul's Knight Cities application for the *veloCITY Academy*.

This academy has the potential to transform the way local government develops leaders. We are at a critical point for leadership in the public sector; nearly one-third of the City's full-time workforce will reach retirement age within 10 years, and we will face stiff competition for talent as we replace a generation of leaders. We believe *veloCITY Academy* will improve the City's ability to attract and retain the talented workforce we need, build our capacity to engage with Saint Paul residents and stakeholders in meaningful ways, and further establish Saint Paul's reputation as a forward-thinking government intent on solving problems and providing services in efficient, effective, and innovative ways.

As Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, innovation has been one of my top priorities. My administration has invested in creating vibrant places and spaces through our Knight-funded 8 80 initiative. I directed every department to develop a detailed racial equity plan to take action on improving equity in the City workforce and services. I established the Innovation Team to serve as a catalyst across the City by advancing a culture of innovation and improvement. Our partnership with the Bloomberg What Works Cities initiative will increase the use of data-based decision-making to drive performance and results. A Knight investment in *veloCITY Academy* would ensure that talent development is interwoven with our other major initiatives to transform the way the City of Saint Paul does business.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor