



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing in full support for PROCEED in their effort towards receiving funding from the Higher Education and Workforce Development Budget Division. PROCEED has championed and pushed for providing young kids of color with educational and life-long success. Each year they visit a different region of the country.

Along with promoting and encouraging young kids to attain higher education and graduate from college, PROCEED has also lead initiatives to expose young students of color to job fairs and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

This work is vital towards Minnesota's workforce development initiatives and can help combat some of the racial disparities we see in our workforce today. Racial and class employment disparities in Minnesota are well documented. While the Twin Cities ranks number one among America's largest metropolitan areas in terms of overall employment participation, it consistently ranks last in terms of racial disparities in that same measure. This is unacceptable.

In order to combat these issues that continue to plague our workforce, it is important that we continue to support organizations such as the PROCEED for the work they do in our community. I commend the work done by PROCEED and during this session, I urge you to support their work as well.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor