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November 22, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the partnership between Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) and the University of South Florida's Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS).

A partnership was established between HCPS Magnet Programs and the University of South Florida's Patel College of Global Sustainability (PCGS) with a goal of enhancing students' knowledge and awareness on issues relating to global sustainability. The partnership includes three of the district's science magnet programs: The Creative Science Centres at Lockhart Elementary (Lower Campus), The Creative Science Centre at Young Middle (Upper Campus) and Dowdell Middle Environmental Studies, as well as the Global Leadership Academy at Monroe Middle School.

Researchers from USF work collaboratively with teachers in developing relevant and rigorous curriculum to be implemented in the partnership schools. The partnership provides students with authentic learning experiences through guest speakers, field experiences and a project based curriculum.

The success of the partnership is due to the dedication and commitment by both HCPS and PCGS. This commitment led to the creation of a dedicated jointly funded position to coordinate the partnership. The Educational Partnership Coordinator is key to the development of the sustainability curriculum and implementation. The position has allowed the partnership's reach to expand across USF. This support included the implementation of the Eco-Mentor Program through the Environmental Science Department and the "Up-Cycled" art installation at the Botanical Gardens.

In conclusion, the partnership with the Patel College of Global Sustainability enhances the global impact of students in Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Pansy Houghton Ph.D.

Director Student Planning and Placement