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TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
UCR Academic Senate

FROM: Margaret A. Nash, Chair  
GSOE Executive Committee

SUBJ: White Paper on RUSD STEM High School on the UCR Campus

The Executive Committee of the Graduate School of Education (GSOE) met to discuss the Summary White Paper on RUSD STEM High School on the Campus of the University of California, Riverside. The GSOE Executive Committee is enthusiastic about this proposed joint venture between Riverside Unified School District and UCR. We see many opportunities for GSOE students, including teacher education students observing model teaching, and doctoral students conducting observation and research. We see this school as having the potential to foster an even stronger connection between UCR and the school district and the broader community.

We would like to encourage strong GSOE involvement in the planning process, perhaps including a GSOE faculty member on an advisory board on RUSD-UCR partnerships for planning collaborative projects.

In addition, we would like to encourage consideration of the school being a STEAM high school rather than a STEM high school. Studies have shown that students who study arts tend to perform better academically overall, including in math. For instance, a study conducted by the University of Florida showed that students who studied music appreciation scored 42 points higher on the math section of the SAT, and 61 points higher on verbal ( <http://www.edudemic.com/stem-vs-steam-why-the-a-makes-all-the-difference/>). Advocates of STEAM argue for curriculum that is based on the idea that “Science and Technology are interpreted through Engineering and the (social, language, physical, musical and fine) Arts, all based in elements of Mathematics.” (See: steamedu.com).

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this White Paper. We wish this project much success.