



Dear Silicon Valley Leader,

As CEOs of Silicon Valley companies, we are writing to show our support for the Silicon Valley Education Foundation, the only non-profit focused on raising student performance across all 34 school districts of Santa Clara County.

Our organizations rely on employees with math, engineering, and science skills. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, our public schools are falling behind in preparing students for 21st century jobs. California, for example, ranks 45th in 8th grade math and worse in science achievement. Strengthening our schools and the communities our employees live in, make all our companies more attractive.

The good news is the Silicon Valley Education Foundation launched a STEM Initiative to raise student performance in science, technology, engineering, and math. This STEM Initiative has brought together key leaders from business, civic, and education to tackle this issue jointly. Phase 1 dedicates \$3 million over the next three years and begins with a focus on middle school math.

Here in Silicon Valley, only 37% of 8th graders meet California's standard for Algebra 1 proficiency. We believe that by backing Silicon Valley Education Foundation, we can double this number by 2011.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has made a \$1.7 million investment and the corporate community is being asked to contribute the remaining \$1.3 million.

Like you, we know that supporting public education locally has always been challenging given the vast number of schools within individual school districts. The children of our employees attend schools across multiple districts, but how do we choose to support one over the other? Silicon Valley Education Foundation makes investing in education easy by taking a regional approach. You can now fund education and know your support is being leveraged with other resources to address the areas of greatest need across Santa Clara County.

Enclosed you will find an Executive Summary which lays out the need for greater investment in STEM Education. We encourage you to join in this initiative by contacting Brian Kaplan at [briank@svefoundation.org](mailto:briank@svefoundation.org). There are numerous ways to support this effort including employee volunteerism, in-kind contributions and direct funding.

Please take the time to learn about this important initiative and join with us in supporting our students.

Sincerely,

**John Chambers**, CEO and Chairman, Cisco Systems

**Michael McNamara**, CEO and Director, Flextronics International

**Abhi Talwalkar**, President and CEO, LSI

**Brian L. Halla**, CEO and Chairman of the Board, National Semiconductor Corporation

**Moshe Gavrielov**, President and CEO, Xilinx

**H. Raymond Bingham**, former CEO, Cadence Systems, Chairman of the Board, Flextronics

**Bruce Chizen**, former CEO, Adobe Systems, Director, Oracle Corporation