

QUALITY EDUCATION FOR MINORITIES (QEM) NETWORK

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January 31, 1995

Dr. Iris Rotberg
Program Director
Research, Evaluation and Dissemination
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 855
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Dr. ^{Iris}Rotberg:

Thank you very much for serving as the discussion leader on the topic: *Head Start/Chapter 1 Programs in Schools* at the Biannual meeting of QEM's "January 15th" Group on January 13. From all reports and from the excellent summary you provided during the closing plenary session, your two sessions were quite informative, thought-provoking, and motivating to the participants. Your involvement clearly helped to make the overall meeting a real success.

We will be preparing a summary of the various roundtable discussions as well as the key points made during both the opening and closing plenary sessions. As soon as that is available, we will send a copy to you for your information.

I have read and shared with the staff the copy of your commentary in the January 11, 1995 edition of *Education Week* entitled "Reacting to the Bell Curve." It exposes the false assumptions that many people have about educational resources available to children and youth from low-income families while pointing out the "miraculous" progress that many Blacks have made in spite of an uneven academic playing field. Most people, I'm afraid, would prefer to use the "innate inferiority" argument to "explain away" the differences in outcome. Thank you for taking the time to speak out on this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Shirley M. McBay
President