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To: <moran@k12albemarle.org>
Subject: Educational Support

October 19, 2010

Dr. Pamela Moran, Superintendent of Schools

Albemarle County

Dear Dr. Moran;

I recently had the opportunity to learn about the Albemarle County Public Schools Vision 2023 plan and I am impressed. I wanted to share what State Farm is doing to support your efforts. Only if business, education and non-profit communities come together will we be able to tackle the challenges that face our students and future workforce. It's the right thing to do, but it's also the only way, as a nation, we are going to be able to compete in a global marketplace.

Through our partnership with the Alliance for Excellent Education (<http://www.all4ed.org>) we know that 33,500 Virginia students did not graduate from high school last year. We also know that the lost lifetime earnings in our state for that class of dropouts alone total more than \$8.7 billion. Statistics show our state's economy would see a combination of savings and revenue of about \$179 million in reduced crime spending and increased earnings each year if the male high school graduation rate increased by just five percent.

That's why we support programs like Smart Beginnings, which helps make our community a place where local children arrive at school prepared and ready to learn. This program increases children's readiness for success in school by providing resources for educators, families, and early childhood care providers and heightens public awareness of the importance of the early learning years.

State Farm is also there as students enter primary and middle school. We're very proud of our partnership with the Albemarle Public Schools in support of their M3 (Men, Math and Mission) program. We believe the M3 program addresses the achievement gap while helping young men become active, engaged participants in the community.

We take our role as the largest private employer in Albemarle County very seriously. Recently, we partnered with Piedmont Virginia Community College to help fund their workforce development center. We are excited about what this center will bring to our community and we're proud to be a part of making it happen.

I am very pleased that the regional Chamber of Commerce is also making education a priority and would suggest we use that as an opportunity to work together on solutions that will improve education and enhance employment opportunities for the youth in our community upon graduation.

On the national level, State Farm has partnered with the America's Promise alliance. In 2008 and 2009 we sponsored dropout summits across the country that brought together students, educators, government officials and community organizations to combat the high school dropout rate. Our own Chairman & CEO, Ed Rust, serves on the board of the alliance.

State Farm is proud to support your efforts so that we ensure more young people proudly emerge from high school armed with a diploma and the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. As a mother of two

Albemarle County high school students, and a business leader, thank you for your vision and for everything the Albemarle County Public School System does to make our county a great place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Peggy Echols, Vice President of Operations

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