



## VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Stanley C. Mantooth, County Superintendent of Schools

January 14, 2010

Mr. Jerry Beckerman, Executive Director, Founder  
Segue Career Mentors  
2127 Hyland Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear Mr. Beckerman:

I am writing this letter in support of the Segue Community Champions program. Many of our local students have benefitted from their experiences with Segue Career Mentors. I continue to receive positive feedback from administrators and others that have participated in this inspiring and motivating program. I am especially pleased to know how little effort is required of the school to have Segue serve their students.

District superintendents throughout the county were recently asked for ideas of ways to increase their efforts in college, career, and workforce preparation. The immediate response of most was a suggestion to bring Segue into their middle schools and high schools, but many are constrained from doing so due to the current budget crisis facing our schools. Your Community Champions program could be a viable funding solution.

I was pleased to note that Segue's Community Champions program greatly lowers the threshold for investment of both time and financial resources, and enables the Champion, whether an individual or an organization, to sponsor Segue into a single school. Multiple Champions in a district could result in multiple schools benefiting from the career mentoring services that Segue provides.

We, as educators, know that inspired and motivated students achieve more academically, work harder in school, drop out in fewer numbers, attend school more regularly, and are less likely to join gangs or exhibit violent or aberrant behaviors. The entire community can benefit from the more focused and motivated students who will come out of the Segue experience. Your efforts to mobilize local clubs, associations, business groups, and individuals to support Segue's mission are well-conceived and will in turn not only support each of their respective missions, but the goals and quality of life in Ventura County for years to come.

Please do not hesitate to reference my support as your plans for county-wide dissemination of Segue unfold.

Sincerely,

Stanley C. Mantooth  
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools