

Statement on California's \$52 Million Race to the Top Education Award

Written by Mike Honda

Wednesday, 21 December 2011 11:49

As a result, I am proud that California will receive a grant award of roughly \$52 million from the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) fund, a competitive grant program jointly administered by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services.

I would like to thank President Obama and the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services for recognizing California's commitment to early educational development.

Earlier this year, I joined 26 other members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation to express my support for California's application to the RTT-ELC grant competition – confident in California's leaders' ability to execute the ambitious, innovative plans for reform outlined by the Early Learning Challenge. The RTT-ELC grant Competition focused on improving states' early learning and development programs for young children. The nine recipients of the grants were States that demonstrated, "ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive early learning education reform."

A child's education in her early years shapes and forms her physical, emotional, and intellectual development throughout her life. Each child, regardless of her ethnicity or her parents' socio-economic status, should have a quality early learning education. Through high quality educational programs that promote creative play, a love for books and rich cultural experiences, our young kids will be well on their way to enriching their communities and their nation as a whole.

Quality education also assures the economic competitiveness of our nation. Silicon Valley's Tech and Manufacturing Community is known for driving innovation and creativity in its workplace. Silicon Valley tech and manufacturing employees are highly skilled and creative individuals. Home grown talent needs to be available to fill in the gaps of the tech workforce; and this begins by providing quality public school education here in California.

With the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant supporting California's early education plans, the Silicon Valley Tech and Manufacturing Community can rest assured that it will have a future workforce of creative and inventive talent to keep our community the world's leading innovators.

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I am proud of California's ambition, innovation and commitment to early child educational development. Educating our youth begins in their early stages. Educating our youth begins now.