



Wednesday, June 11, 2014

The Hamilton County Department of Education Innovation Zone (iZone) supports the efforts of Global Excel and its proposed GigBridge program that endeavors to enhance and increase the pipeline of underrepresented minorities in the computer science field. The iZone's mission overlaps with the aims and goals of the Global Excel by introducing, engaging, and educating youth with the computing skills and competencies needed for a 21st Century workforce. The iZone strives to:

- Provide greater flexibility to meet the educational needs of a diverse and constantly changing student population
- Improve quality of instruction
- Increase the accountability for student achievement and success
- Develop innovative approaches to engage students
- Provide additional learning time and opportunities
- Allocate resources to fund innovative strategies and further educational gains
- Commit to working with students, parents, and the community to bolster scores and provide additional supports, as needed to ensure that students have the best opportunities to excel in school and life.

Innovative school and community programs such as this one, that support families in their neighborhoods will help HCDE reach its strategic goals of increased student achievement, reduced dropout rates and ultimately equip more children to graduate from high school ready for work, college and life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Smith II".

Reginald F. Smith II, MPA
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