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May 10, 2000

Dr. Marvin Goldberg
Program Officer
High Energy Physics
National Science Foundation

Dear Marv:

As we had discussed on the phone, I enclose a draft of a proposal that we would like to submit to NSF from the Teachers' Academy for Mathematics and Science (TAMS). The focus is on assessment; we just have arrived at the unique position of having access to the huge data bases of the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago. A methodology for determining factors that lead to improved test scores for inner-city students can now be developed, we believe. We lucked out in that the chief statistician for CNA Insurance, Yakov Avichai, has retired, and through a Board Member who was high up in CNA we have interested him in applying industry-standard techniques to these data. We have taken only a first look at some of the data with these techniques, and it looks very promising. We would like to work with the much larger data sets we have just gotten access to, and it's to this end that we have written the present draft.

The reason we would like to come to the Foundation with this request, rather than to the State of Illinois, is because we would like to interact at the national level on the policy issues that arise naturally from techniques such as this one. Being able to identify factors in the schools which lead to successful intervention would be powerful, if we could manage to do it. In addition, it would allow a more quantitative assessment of the efficacy of the intervention programs, something that has long been one of the major challenges to us. TAMS has good support from the State now (we have a line item in the annual budget), and we also have excellent working relations with the policy makers in education at the state level. We would like both to learn from and, possibly, to convey what we have learned, to others in a broader venue. The Foundation is natural for an effort that could have implications for science and mathematics education in inner-city schools nationally. While serving on the Council for the American Physical Society I was often struck by the discussions of math and science education in the inner-cities, and by how little visibility the large effort being made by the

State of Illinois, which includes efforts with TAMS, had on the national scene. I would really like to try to bridge the gap.

Being a high-energy physicist, and having worked closely and happily with you with the Chicago HEP program, I certainly am most comfortable coming to you for an initial discussion with the Foundation about which route, if any, would be appropriate for a proposal based on this draft. As we discussed, we would be very interested in having a meeting with you and the other appropriate people from NSF, Armando Triana, Yakov Avichai, Bret Feranchak, Coretta McFerran, and myself, to discuss this work, and whether or not the NSF might be interested in considering a proposal from us in this important area of assessment. One day that would be good for us would be May 25th. I know that this is very soon; we would be happy to make it another day if that one isn't good.

With Best Regards,

Henry Frisch