

January 29, 2013

College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences
West Virginia University
P.O. Box 6116
Morgantown, WV 26505

Dear Dr. Eloise Elliott:

I am writing this letter in support of the McDowell CHOICES (Coordinated Health Opportunities Involving Communities, Environments, and Schools) being planned and implemented by faculty in the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences and the School of Public Health at West Virginia University, funded by the Highmark Foundation. This comprehensive and collaborative effort to ignite meaningful and well-timed physical activity programming in our county and schools has potential for greatly enhancing the health, well-being, and physical activity opportunities for citizens of all ages in McDowell County.

Within the past several years, McDowell County school leadership and administration have taken steps, in collaboration with the American Federation of Teachers and other public- and private-sector groups (i.e., the "Reconnecting McDowell" initiative), to improve the educational and health opportunities for students and families that we serve. The McDowell CHOICES group, working in synergy with Reconnecting McDowell, will assist our schools in identifying physical activity-related strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement; then contribute to the development and implementation of meaningful, school-based solutions.

As Superintendent of McDowell County schools, I will support this project and the collaboration with our higher education partners to make McDowell County schools a model of engaged educational professionals committed to enhancing physical activity programming and opportunities for our students and families, that can be shared throughout our state.

Sincerely,


Superintendent Nelson Spencer