



THE TELECOM OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTE

Connection to Success

October 1, 2001

Dr. Ken Kennedy
Director, Center for Research on High Performance Software
Department of Computer Science
MS 132
6100 Main Street
Houston, TX 77005-1892

Dear Dr. Kennedy:

I am very excited about the possibilities of the Education and Outreach programs of the proposed National Science Foundation Science and Technology Center, Center for Grid Application Development Software (CGrADS) at Rice. The Telecom Opportunity Institute (TTOI) a Houston-based, non-profit organization, was created to increase knowledge and interest in the telecommunications industry among underrepresented groups through its technology education focused programs. Since 1999, TTOI has sought to accomplish its goals by working in low-income and minority communities providing free computer use and Internet training classes to at-risk youth, parents, and unemployed adults. Our programs have continued to expand beyond Houston to include outreach in Austin, San Antonio, and Los Angeles, to hundreds of participants annually.

One of our most important objectives is to equip Hispanic and African-American parents with the technical skills they need to use technology as a tool to assist in their children's education. We believe if both teachers and parents embrace technology as an integral part of the education process that it will be equally embraced by our youth. A TTOI/CGrADS collaboration offers a substantial opportunity to leverage our respective organizations' expertise working with teachers, parents and technology for the benefit of all. Imagine teachers using technology to interact with parents who are in turn trained to use technology to interact with teachers and support their children's learning and career development. I believe the result would be a greater acceptance of technology in education and a stronger interest in math, science and technology as career options by both parents and students.

As Executive Director of TTOI, I am willing to commit staff and other resources to help make the TTOI collaboration with CGrADS a reality. I am excited about beginning to work on this with Richard Tapia and his staff.

Best regards,

Brian J. Stevens
Executive Director
The Telecom Opportunity Institute