

September 28, 2017

Tim Flannery
Department of Legislative Audit
427 South Chapelle
Pierre, SD 57501

Tim,

I will not be able to attend the hearing on October 5th and 6th. My husband recently suffered a brain stem stroke and I am busy with his recovery.

Outlined below are my responses to your questions:

- **Please explain your role with both the first and second GEAR UP grants?**

1st GEAR UP Grant: *I was hired by OSEC in 2006 as a regional coordinator for SD GEAR UP. Angela Estes (another regional coordinator) and myself were assigned the duties of implementing the Middle School component across the state of South Dakota. Each MS (32 of them I believe) was given \$10,000.00 each to implement 3 main things:*

1. *Career Exploration activities for grades 6-8*
2. *College Campus visits for 6th-8th graders*
3. *Conduct a Parent Night*

The \$10,000.00-dollar funding had two components: (1) \$ 5,000.00-Hire a coordinator in each school who would be responsible for the above 3 activities. (2) Use the other \$ 5,000.00 to take students on college campus visits and pay for the parent night. In January of 2010, I was hired by the SD DOE as the Director of Indian Education. When I arrived in Pierre, the 1st GEAR UP grant was in its last year. I believe the re-write for the 2nd GEAR UP grant occurred in 2011, but I'm not sure since I was gone by then.

2nd GEAR UP Grant: *Not involved*

- **Who was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the first GEAR UP grant?**

Project Coordinator was Stacy Phelps. He was responsible for the day-to day operations. Project Director was Keith Moore.

- **Were you aware of any conflicts of interest involving employees of the Mid Central Educational Cooperative or employees of other organizations involved with the GEAR UP program?**

I believe Representative Elizabeth May has outlined this very well in regards to potential conflict of interests.

Sincerely,
DocuSigned by:

LuAnn Werdel

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LuAnn Werdel