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MEMORANDUM

TO: CIASI Committee, University High School
Bob Fitzgerald, Kathy Clesson, Brian Conant, Candice Swift, Mike Troll, Brad Dearing, &
Cory Culbertson
FROM: *R.D.* Dr. Robert Dean, Director, Laboratory Schools
DATE: October 29, 2004
RE: Suggested Readings

As a new subcommittee charged with the broad responsibility of overseeing curriculum, instruction, assessment, and program improvement issues at University High School, I thought it might be helpful to suggest some readings that are particularly timely given your task.

The first enclosure is an article from a newspaper in California entitled, *High school reform on radar*. Numerous articles, with the same theme, are now appearing in the news as the focus of school reform has now shifted to high schools. My purpose in sharing this article is to simply alert you to this new focus and encourage you to review some of the writings now coming out.

The one page attachment from the October 20 issue of *Education Week* makes reference to some work done by the Education Commission of the States (ECS) in identifying "more than 25 public and private organizations that have recently studied or sought ways to improve academic rigor in high schools." It would be a good benchmarking activity to track down some of the recommendations being offered by these organizations to see what we can learn. I suspect we would discover that we are doing many things right and at the same time, find some "nuggets" that would provide some guidance for future improvements.

The third enclosure probably comes from one of the 25 organizations who have recently studied high schools, the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL). While much of this report focuses on reducing the size of large high schools, there are also some more general findings that might be of interest to University High School.

If the School Development Committee has already planned a different set of actions, I'd be interested in hearing about them. It is not my intent to send you off in a different direction or interfere with any plans you already have. If you'd like, I'd be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Thanks for serving on this important committee.

Cc Dr. Paul Baker
Jerry Christensen

Note: One of the enclosures included with this memo can be found online at:
http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/images/stories/otherdocs/P21_Report.pdf