



April 18, 2006

Dear Business Leader,

As a business leader and involved citizen in Arizona, you know very well the important role that education has in our state's economy and social development. You also know the challenges that education faces in our state: illiteracy, high drop out rates, and woefully inadequate resources and support.

Recently, the Roman Catholic Bishops of Arizona issued a pastoral statement that communicates our conviction that the future of our state does, indeed, depend on the commitment that we all make toward the education and development of our children.

Confident that you share in that conviction, I am writing to encourage your corporation's participation in the new Arizona Corporation Education Tax Credit that will go into effect this summer. This tax credit will allow corporations to direct a special contribution to a qualified school tuition organization that will be matched dollar-for-dollar with a corporate tax credit.

Specifically, I encourage you to direct your corporation's special contribution to the Catholic Tuition Support Organization (CTSO) that serves 28 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Tucson.

Created in response to the individual education tax credit established in Arizona in 1998, the CTSO has been an effective vehicle for individual taxpayers to provide scholarship support for over 2,300 students in our Catholic schools last year. At least 74% of the scholarships have been need based, 75% allocated to minority students and 35% to children of single parents. These scholarships have enabled deserving students to receive the benefits of a Catholic education, benefits that include high academic achievement and graduation levels.

Time is of the essence because the bill caps the aggregate amount of the tax credit at \$10 million annually and allows the credit to be used only on a first-come-first-serve basis. As you consider the merits of participating in the Arizona Corporation Education Tax Credit, please know that it would be a privilege for the CTSO to partner with your corporation to enhance the education of children.

Enclosed is additional information about the new tax credit and a form that you can return to the CTSO to indicate your interest.

In great appreciation for your interest in improving educational opportunities for children, I am sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Kicanas".

Most Rev. Gerald F. Kicanas, D.D.
Bishop of Tucson

Enclosure