



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Schools, Thriving Students

May 19, 2014

Ms. Regina Jackson
East Oakland Youth Development Center
8200 International Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94621

Dear Ms. Jackson:

On February 27th President Barack Obama addressed the nation unveiling a critical White House initiative, My Brother's Keeper. The President signed a memorandum establishing the My Brother's Keeper Task Force and announced that the new initiative was a partnership with leading foundations and businesses that will take a collaborative multidisciplinary approach to building ladders of opportunity for boys and young men of color.

In Oakland, we intimately understand the need for "My Brother's Keeper" and we know that the time is now for our city, our state and our nation to focus on efforts that work in the interests of all Americans.

The Office of African American Male Achievement (AAMA) strives to stop the epidemic failure of African American male students in the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) by creating the systems, structures and spaces that guarantee success for all African American male students.

As one of the participating community partner organizations, I would like to send my heart felt CONGRATULATIONS to the 17 African American young men from the Oakland and San Francisco Bay Area that represent the Northern California Delegation of the China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF), also known as Think China!

I would also like to appreciate the delegation's lead chaperone, Ms. Regina Jackson. Her passion, commitment and fundamental belief is that all African American male students are extraordinary and deserve the opportunity to have access to a variety of college, career, community and cultural experiences. Thank you, Ms. Jackson for your years of service to our children and families.

The Oakland China Exchange Program provides an opportunity of a lifetime for our youth. I am grateful to all of the people who helped make this opportunity come true – all of you are the charming gardeners who make our children's souls blossom.

In the Spirit,

Christopher P. Chatmon
Executive Director