



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

July 15, 2010

Dear School Official:

Congratulations on having students from your school selected to attend the 2010 Georgia Youth Summit. This educational forum is scheduled for September 11th – 13th, 2010. It is organized by the University of Georgia and sponsored by the Department of Community Affairs as part of the Georgia Rural Development Council's Youth Leadership Initiative. I serve as chair of that Council, and I applaud and endorse the work of the leadership committee.

Summit organizers plan to have a team consisting of four young people and one adult representing every county in Georgia at this unique event. The Summit is designed to create an awareness of state/local issues, to enhance youth-adult partnerships on the local level, and to equip youth to become active locally in the betterment of their community. The youths and adults will work as a team to develop a plan to return to their community and make recommendations to local decision makers. I am confident that the young people at this conference will have a positive impact on the future of Georgia.

The theme for the Summit is **Take Up the Torch: Our Communities, Our Future, Our Leaders**. This will truly be an opportunity for the young people of Georgia to have their opinions heard. They will be interacting with state officials, civic and education leaders at local and state levels, faculty of the University of Georgia, and members of the Georgia Rural Development Council.

I am confident that the educational merit and community benefits of this conference warrant your consideration for an excused absence. The event will occur on the Rock Eagle campus of the University of Georgia near Eatonton. The students will be charged to provide a detailed report of the plans and experiences to their principal and superintendent upon returning home.

Please call Mr. Jeff Buckley, at the University of Georgia (706) 542-4H4H with any specific questions. Thanks for your support of these students.

Sincerely,

Governor Sonny Perdue