



Dear friends,

Faced with rapidly growing competitive pressures in today's global economy, American business depends increasingly on the knowledge and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills of an educated workforce. Business leaders across the country are, however, deeply concerned about their inability to find sufficient numbers of potential employees who bring the knowledge, skills and attitudes that businesses need to compete.

In the attached paper, "**The Mounting Crisis- A Call to Action: Sustaining America's Competitive Edge Through Quality Education**", we examine the critical dependence of American business and society on the quality and focus of American public education, and we propose specific, innovative steps that the business community can take in cooperation with educators and public officials to help solve these problems.

To develop the workforce we need, and to prepare all of our children to succeed, American education must focus more intensely on the demands of 21<sup>st</sup> Century society and of the global economy. We must invest in quality care and education of our youngest children and we must sustain that quality throughout life-long learning.

Business input and support are essential to help define the changes needed in our approach to education, and to build public support for the policies and funding required to implement required changes. This is a critical time that requires an innovative approach by business as well as by educators, moving beyond traditional types of collaboration. Business leaders must engage, in their own interest and that of their employees and communities, to ensure that the outcomes of American education effectively prepare this country for the future.

For more information about America's Edge, please visit [www.AmericasEdge.org](http://www.AmericasEdge.org).

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ronald F. Stue', is written over a thin horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.