

Dear President Obama,

As a non-profit organization dedicated to creating more opportunities for all young people to develop confidence, creativity, and interest in learning through making, Maker Education Initiative (Maker Ed) is thrilled to share this letter of commitment to support maker education.

Maker Ed strongly believes that making has the potential to transform the way youth learn, and to create a profound impact on their lives. We work with educators and communities across the nation to support and empower them to facilitate meaningful making and learning experiences. We have three programs: (1) Maker Corps, which meets the demand for human capacity in youth serving organizations eager to embed making into their programs; (2) Maker VISTA, which propagates maker education in vulnerable communities affected by poverty; and (3) Young Makers, which brings together a community of young people, ages 8-18, with mentors to create youth-chosen, open-ended projects. In collaboration with Indiana University's Creativity Labs, Maker Ed also oversees the Open Portfolio Project, a research initiative that aims to develop a common set of practices for portfolio creation, sharing and assessment. All of this work is strengthened and supported by Maker Ed's professional development workshops and events, a Directory of maker programs nationwide, and an online Resource Library, which is the primary location for curated content related to maker education.

Through these programs and projects, Maker Ed plays a national leadership role in both broadening access to and deepening the impact of meaningful making and learning experiences for youth. With this foundation of work in place, we are uniquely poised to multiply the transformative potential of maker education on a national scale.

We heard your call to action for “every company, every college, every community, every citizen [to] join us as we lift up makers and builders and doers across the country” and we responded. In partnership with Digital Promise and AASA, The Schools Superintendents Association, Maker Ed launched a campaign to gather support for making from school leaders. Nearly 60 school administrators serving approximately 500,000 students committed to taking steps to expand making in schools and districts across America.

As a way to strengthen the efforts of educators and administrators in schools, districts and other learning communities across the nation, Maker Ed is committed to taking the following steps:

- Creating resources that will enable schools to create and sustain makerspaces, including the release of a new edition of the Makerspace Playbook and the launch of a new category, Spaces and Places, on our Resource Library.
- Building a set of modular professional development offerings, both online and in person, for educators to both develop their skills to integrate making into

their current settings and prepare them to train others in their local communities.

- Furthering the research efforts underway surrounding the assessment of student work through our continued work on the Open Portfolio Project and various partnerships with research and evaluation centers nationwide.
- Extending and deepening our community of practice around making and education to support educators beyond their professional development experiences and continue the cross-pollination of ideas.
- Expanding our Young Makers program nationwide as a model to fulfill capstone projects or provide deeper engagement in learning in an afterschool setting.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to working with you and your Administration to make this initiative a transformative one for the youth in our country as we work together to fulfill Maker Ed's vision: Every Child a Maker.

Sincerely,



Warren (Trey) Lathe III
Executive Director
Maker Education Initiative (Maker Ed)