Dear Teachers,

You are our heroes. Every day of this pandemic, you have blown us away with your creativity, compassion, and commitment, your tenacity and heart. You have moved mountains to reach each child, wherever they are and despite the challenges that stand in your way. You’ve taught math classes while standing outside of homes, led online meditations to start the “school” day, created PE classes from your living room, filmed DIY science experiments, and found ways to check in with each kid. You’ve not only taught lessons; you have been our children’s lifeline to normalcy and stability, a tether and a point of connection. When Shonda Rhimes tweeted, "Been homeschooling a 6-year old and 8-year old for one hour and 11 minutes. Teachers deserve to make a billion dollars a year. Or a week," she put into words the collective appreciation of the nation’s parents.

Here’s the secret you’ve known all along but is only now clear to the rest of us: It was always true.

As leaders deeply invested in the nonpartisan, multi-sector, national effort to prepare and support 100,000 excellent preK-12 STEM teachers by 2021, we salute you. In our living rooms and kitchens, our bedrooms and makeshift one-room schoolhouses, we are standing and cheering for all the world to hear: “We love you, teachers!”
Not because it’s easy or because you get it right every day. It isn’t, and you don’t. But you’ve chosen to get in the arena and stay there. You have managed, not just during this crisis but against the backdrop of the everyday grind, to bring joy in the midst of struggle. You have taught kids from history books and stories, legends and myths in which your names do not appear. But when we tell the story of this time, the work of teachers and what you have done to educate, inspire, and connect us all will be front and center.

Even as we add our names to this letter, we know that praise without action rings hollow. Your courage during this time strengthens our resolve to tackle the systemic issues that have made it difficult for so long to get and keep great teachers, especially for our least resourced schools and communities, and especially in STEM.

On behalf of our students and our country, we the undersigned pledge to link arms with you to bring the changes in salary and work conditions, professional support and development, classroom resources and leadership that you have dreamt of, so that you can continue to fuel the dreams of our country’s children. In these uncertain times, we will stand with you not just to protect progress that’s been made in communities across the country but to make even greater strides to recognize and value the essential role of teachers.

There is an ancient teaching that the world itself rests on the breath of children when they are learning. Across these great United States, communities understand more profoundly than ever before that our very existence depends on the work you are doing. We are so grateful.

(If you want to join your name and share your appreciation with the teachers in your lives, please do!)

Signed,

100Kin10
Grace Doramus, Chief Innovation Officer
Guadalupe Carrasco, Administrative Coordinator
Joi Rae, Chief of Staff
Julie Paturzo, Senior Manager, Partner Engagement
Kate Isenberg, Manager, Data & Insights
Kendra Danowski, Community Designer & Manager
Lauren Baier, Community Designer & Manager
Mable Yiu, Community Coordinator
Mesha Byrd, Network Manager
Monique Hoeflinger, Director of Strategy
Pomai Verzon, Strategic Initiatives Manager
Talia Milgrom-Elcott, Executive Director and Founder
Yasmin Sabrina Fodil, Chief Program Officer
A. Peterson
Alec Macaulay, Director of School & District Partnerships, Out Teach
Alice H. Gilchrist, Coordinator, S2TEM Centers South Carolina
Amanda J. Smith, STEM Outreach Liaison, Penn State University
Ambika Kapur, Program Officer, Education, Carnegie Corporation of New York
Ann Wescott, Special Education Teacher, Region 12 Connecticut
Anne Gatling, Merrimack College
Ani Martinez, Field Director, Remake Learning
Anu Malipatil, Vice President, Education, Overdeck Family Foundation, Overdeck Family Foundation
Ashley Young, Science Education Program Manager, Amgen Foundation
Babette Moeller, Distinguished Scholar, EDC Center for Children and Technology
Barbara Hug, Teaching Associate Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, College of Education
Becky Crowe, President and CEO, Clayton Early Learning
Bethany Orozco, Statewide Recruitment & Communications Director, EnCorps STEM Teachers Program
Bill Thornburgh, Executive Officer, American Modeling Teachers Association
Braeden Mayrisch, Director, Social Impact, Voya Financial
Brandy Skylling
Breanna Villena, Faculty Manager, Western Governors University
Brianna Donaldson, Director, Math Teachers' Circle Network
Breienne Ericson, Mom of Two Kids, Thomas Paine PTA
Brooke Haley, Event Coordinator, Youth Code Jam
Brooke Higgins
Bryan and Emily Ayscue Hassel, Co-presidents, Public Impact — on behalf of the entire Public Impact staff
Cara Wylie, Program Coordinator, eMINTS National Center - University of Missouri
Carly Baldwin, Teacher, Boyd County High School
Carla Chaffin, eMINTS Instructional Specialist, eMINTS National Center - University of Missouri
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Carolyn Landel, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Collaboration, University of Texas at Austin
Cassie Klein
Chalene Martinez
Charles King, Executive Director, Kansas City Teacher Residency
Chelsea Clinton, Vice Chair, Clinton Foundation
Cherry Thompson, Regional Director, Teaching Channel
Christine Terry, Instructional Specialist and Parent, eMINTS National Center - University of Missouri
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Debi Pfitzenmaier, Executive Director, Youth Code Jam
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Dewayne Morgan, Director of Partnerships and Collaborations, University System of Maryland
Diana Cornejo-Sanchez, Director, HTH Teacher Center
Donna Taylor, Assistant Director of Professional Development, The STEM Education Center at Worcester Polytechnic Institute
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Douglas Hodum
Dr. Aaron Popham, Interim Dean & Academic Vice President, Teachers College, Western Governors University
Dr. Lisa N. Duval, Superintendent, South Allegheny School District
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Dr. Nate Carnes, Center for Teaching Excellence Associate Director, University of South Carolina
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Eduardo Cetlin, President, Amgen Foundation
Ellen Yang, Senior Manager, Genentech, Inc.
Elena Lopez, Professional Development Manager, California Science Center
Ellen Frede, Senior Co-director, NIEER
Ellie Goldberg, Doctoral Student in STEM Education, The University of Texas at Austin
Elliot Ransom, Co-CEO, UChicago Impact
Emily Lyman, Sr. Manager, Western Governors University
Fernand Brunschwig, President, STEMteachersNYC (STEM Teachers of NYC, Inc.)
Frank Cortazzo, School Board Member, South Allegheny School District
Frank Niepold, Senior Climate Education Program Manager and Coordinator, NOAA Climate Program Office
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Ginger Duiven
Grant Garrison
Gregg Behr, Executive Director, The Grable Foundation
Guy Harrington, President, Teaching Channel
Hank Nourse, Chief Learning Officer, New York Academy of Sciences
Hannah MacNaughton, Student, University of Dubuque
Hannah Lakin, STEM Education Specialist, Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance
Heather Roche
Heather Sopp Farnan, First Grade Teacher, South Allegheny School District
Heidi Ragsdale
Heising-Simons Foundation
Helen Corveleyn, Elementary STEM Facilitator, Hopewell Elementary School
Infosys Foundation USA
Ignited
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Jennifer McCray, Associate Research Scientist, Erikson Institute’s Early Math Collaborative
Jennifer Ursmson, Program Manager, Science is Elementary
Jeremy Ford, VP, Giving and Social Innovation, Dell Technologies
Jill Zeruth, Senior Manager, Teachers College, Western Governors University
Joe Spalding, Director, Initial Licensure Programs, Western Governors University
John Keller, Fiske Planetarium Director, University of Colorado, Boulder
John King, 10th U.S. Secretary of Education (Obama Administration) and President and CEO of The Education Trust.
Josie Blue, Sr. Research Coordinator, San Diego Zoo Global
Joy Starks
Julie A. Evans, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer, Project Tomorrow
Karen Willey, Naturalist, Climate Change Communications
Kate Blanchard, Managing Director, National Education Initiatives, Teach For America
Katherine Chen, Executive Director, STEM Education Center at Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Katherine Mangum, MS Science Teacher and FLL Coach, St. Catherine’s School
Katherine Wilcox, Executive Director, EnCorps STEM Teachers
Kathy Renfrew, Education Specialist Wade Institute for Science Education, Wade Institute for Science Education
Kerry Branch, Education Specialist, South Carolina’s Coalition for Mathematics & Science/S2TEM Centers SC
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Pradeep "Max" Dass, Professor and Director, CSTL, Northern Arizona University
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Russell Wong, Board Member, Community Resources for Science
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Sadie Norwick, Senior Manager K-8 Programming, National Math and Science Initiative
Sagit Betser, Bay Area Discovery Museum
During this crisis, supporting teachers has only felt more essential. We want all teachers to feel this outpouring of gratitude. This open love letter to teachers gives parents, community members, and educators a collective opportunity to express our admiration powerfully and in one voice. I hope you will join your name and share your appreciation with the teachers in your lives directly.

To learn more about the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program, visit www.encorps.org.