

WILLIAM S. WOODSIDE ACCEPTANCE COMMENTS
PUBLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - APRIL 22, 1985

I AM HONOPEDED AND DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THIS
SPECIAL CITATION FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION, CLEARLY THIS IS NOT ONE PERSON'S
PARTNERSHIP WHICH YOU ARE CITING, IT IS THE
PRODUCT OF MANY INDIVIDUALS. THIS CITATION
TRULY BELONGS TO SCORES OF PEOPLE AT AMERICAN
CAN AND HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AT
MARTIN LUTHER KING WHO GIVE THIS PARTNERSHIP
ITS STRENGTH AND VITALITY.

MY REAL REASON FOR ACCEPTING THIS AWARD IS THE
OPPORTUNITY IT ALLOWS TO SHOWCASE MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR, HIGH SCHOOL, TOO OFTEN,
THINK, ACCOUNTS OF SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
MAGNIFY THE CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION TO THE
SCHOOL AND OVERLOOK THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE
SCHOOL TO THE CORPORATE PARTNER,

THREE YEARS AGO WHEN WE JOINED WITH MARTIN
LUTHER KING JR, HIGH SCHOOL MOST EVERYONE
THOUGHT PRINCIPALLY IN TERMS OF HOW WE COULD
HELP THE SCHOOL, WE WERE TOTALLY UNPREPARED
AS A CORPORATION FOR THE IMPACT THAT THE
SCHOOL HAD ON US,

WE HAVE FOUND TEACHERS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO
THEIR PROFESSION AND INVOLVED WITH THEIR STUDENTS,
WE HAVE FOUND STUDENTS WHO ARE ABLE, INTERESTED
AND AMBITIOUS, WE HAVE LEARNED ONCE AGAIN THAT
WHEN YOU APPROACH YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CARE AND
RESPECT, THEY RESPOND WITH CARE AND RESPECT,
WE WERE REMINDED THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CANNOT BE
EXPECTED TO GROW AND TO LEARN IF THEY ARE NOT
GIVEN A FAIR AND REAL OPPORTUNITY,

THE STUDENTS AT MARTIN LUTHER KING JP, HIGH
SCHOOL HAVE SHOWN US HOW WE CAN HELP TO
PREVENT OUR COMMUNITIES FROM POLARIZING INTO
PROFOUNDLY DIFFERENT GROUPS WITH NO COMMON
GROUNDS OF RESPECT, COMMUNICATION OR CONCERN,
IT IS, INDEED, AMERICAN CAN THAT HAS BENEFITTED
FROM THIS PARTNERSHIP IN VERY SIGNIFICANT
WAYS,
THAT IS ONE REASON WE PUT SO MUCH TIME AND
ENERGY AND EFFORT INTO OUR PARTNERSHIP,
THERE IS ONE OTHER REASON,

BELIEVE THAT A FIRST RATE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL EDUCATION IS EVERY BIT AS IMPORTANT
TO OUR FUTURE AS OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE SYSTEMS,

THIS IS PRECISELY THE TIME TO REAFFIRM THE
LEGACY AND POTENTIAL OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, A
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

FOP ALL CHILDREN OF ALL ABILITIES IS FUNDAMENTAL
TO THE AMERICAN IDEAL OF A JUST SOCIETY,
EVERYONE OF US CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO HIS
MAGNIFICENT EFFORT,

THANK YOU,