



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 22, 2008

Dear Supercomputing Challenge teams, teachers, mentors, and sponsors,

Thank you for inviting me to this year's Awards Ceremony for the 2008 Supercomputing Challenge. Unfortunately, my work in the United States Senate prevents me from being with you today, but I appreciate having this opportunity to send my congratulations on the successful completion of your projects.

Last year, Senator Bingaman and I helped write legislation to focus greater attention and resources on scientific Research and Development and math and science education. This legislation, called the America COMPETES Act, received strong bipartisan support and was signed into law last August. And last month, the Senate agreed to an amendment Senator Bingaman and I proposed to this year's budget resolution that sets funding levels for the Department of Energy's Office of Science at \$4.7 billion and for the National Science Foundation at \$6.8 billion. This funding is essential to fulfill the promises set forth in the America COMPETES legislation and improve our nation's scientific infrastructure and talent pipeline.

You may be asking yourselves what this talk of legislation and policy means to you. Simply put, we need you. We need you to help solve the problems confronting us today. The global community is facing critical challenges in areas such as climate change research, land use and infrastructure planning, energy research, resource management, and medical research. Solutions to these challenges require skilled and passionate thinkers like you to develop new strategies and breakthroughs to address the crisis situations looming on the horizon. Legislation like the America COMPETES Act is designed to help you develop your skills and talents so they can be applied to solving our nation's most important issues and to keep America as a global leader in research and technology innovation.

In my 36 years as a United States Senator, I have tried to make available the resources necessary to help train and inspire new generations of scientists and researchers. For example, I am proud of my role in helping to establish this program almost 20 years ago. I am also excited by a new program: Project GUTS. Project GUTS, that is Growing Up Thinking Scientifically, is a collaboration between the Santa Fe Institute, MIT, New Mexico Tech, the Supercomputing Challenge, the Santa Fe School District, Santa Fe independent schools, and several science-related businesses to work with 200 middle school students in out-of-school activities and field trips. Through Project GUTS, we will have the ability to identify effective ways to improve math and science education for our younger students, and hopefully make it fun in the process.

However, all the resources in the world will not make a difference unless students take advantage of the opportunities presented to them. Education is a key factor in determining an individual's success, and those willing to put in the extra time and effort to investigate the world around them will be rewarded. I am delighted you have chosen to participate in the Supercomputing Challenge. Every team ought to be proud of the work you put into your projects. I hope you will use this experience as a springboard into a future career. Again, congratulations on your projects, and good luck in your future research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete V. Domenici". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Pete V. Domenici  
United States Senator