

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

March 21, 2008

Mr. Donald Hense
Chairman
Friendship Public Charter School
120 Q Street NE
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Hense,

Thank you for hosting my colleagues from the foundation and me for a visit to Friendship Collegiate earlier this week. Without a doubt, it was one of the highlights of my trip to Washington.

I will not soon forget the students we encountered, including the most impressive assembly of DC Achievers scholarship recipients. For me, a particularly memorable moment came when I visited a writing class in which the students were engaged in a discussion of the key causes of poverty in this country. The students were so articulate and their attempt to understand more deeply the causes of inequity left me with a great deal of enthusiasm about the bright future that lies ahead. I have enjoyed recounting this experience to others in Washington, D.C. as well as my colleagues here in Seattle.

Again, thank you for making such an enjoyable visit possible. Please also accept our congratulations on your students' continued success in receiving DC Achievers Scholarships.

Sincerely,



William H. Gates Sr.