



April 6, 1992

Ms. Peggy Glave  
101 Oaklawn  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Dear Ms. Glave:

Your concern about the effectiveness of job training and placement programs is appreciated. The Employers Designing Gainful Employment (EDGE) program has been one of the more successful programs in placing economically disadvantaged clients in good jobs. Unlike many community job training and placement programs, the EDGE staff and advisors contracted with a third-party evaluator to give an unbiased report of the effectiveness of the program. We propose that the more than twenty employment and training service providers also consider using outside auditors and evaluators to determine whether program resources are used wisely.

The evaluation by Dr. Thompson, a Western Michigan University administrator, indicates that EDGE was successful in accomplishing its original objectives. The evaluation also suggests a course of action that would enable EDGE and other employment programs to better address the skill and educational deficiencies of applicants. The recommendations also acknowledge the need for employers to better understand (and manage) workforce diversity.

As I indicated during our phone conversation, several of the agencies and organizations involved with the EDGE, Council for Employment Needs and Training (CENT), and Job Connection Center (JCC) are developing a new adult skills center that will attempt to fulfill the recommendations defined in the EDGE program's final report for the Kellogg Foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Elferdink".

Joyce F. Elferdink  
EDGE Interim Director