Illinois Informatics Institute
501 East Daniel Street, Room 251
Champaign, IL 61820-6211 USA

March 20, 2009

Dear One Laptop Per Child Program:

I write this letter in support of the OLPCorps Africa project proposed by Corey Jackson and its goal of empowering African children and their teachers by teaching them how to use XO laptop computers. This project is very much in line with the mission of the Illinois Informatics Institute, which I direct. That mission is to invent the information environments of the future and to educate those who will build and use them by supporting research and education programs related to informatics. I am also Dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Illinois, which has been running a successful community informatics program in São Tomé for the past two years. The São Toméan people have embraced our help in introducing computing technology and supporting a variety of technology-related projects on their island. This project leverages this strong relationship and dovetails perfectly with our aim to expand our efforts by including undergraduate student participation in the future.

This OLPC project has the enthusiastic support of the Illinois Informatics Institute and its Community Informatics Initiative as well as the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. I am confident that this team of individuals, with the support of One Laptop Per Child, can make a tremendous difference in the lives of the people of São Tomé. Additionally, this project will enrich the educational experience and lives of the participants and make them better world citizens.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Unsworth
Director, Illinois Informatics Institute