*MESA Directors’ request   
to help raise funds for Arduino kits*

***TALKING POINTS***

**OUTLINE:**

* Acknowledge your audience
* Introduce yourself
* Talk about your center – list names of the school district, schools and number of students served
* Provide a short introduction about MESA
* Show off your BEST data – for example: how many MESA students graduated last year
* Tell a good story about your students or refer to a sample story in Italics
* Refer to a past partnership and encourage a new collaboration
* Describe the Prosthetic Arm Challenge and how it aligns with the new California standards
* Explain the need to purchase Arduino kits and train teachers and students
* Close with a plea for a new/continued partnership and how the investment will be successful

**DRAFT Letter/Presentation:**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

My name is **(name)** and I represent the **(center name)** MESA Center that serves **(XX=number)** schools in your district. MESA stands for Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement.

Our program serves approximately **(XX)** K-12 students each year in the **(name of)** school district. Currently, we serve students at **(XX)** middle schools including (**list some or all**), and **(XX)** high Schools including **(list some/all**).

MESA has been the leader in helping educationally disadvantaged students to pursue STEM studies and careers for more than four decades. We have a proven track record in graduating students from low income families and underserved communities. Just last year, MESA helped graduate **(XX)** students in your district. **(XX)** students are now prepared to enter higher-education because of MESA. **(XX)** of them reported that they will be enrolling in STEM fields. We are so proud!

*Here is more good news! This summer, two California MESA high school students bested participants from nine other states in a national engineering design competition. Two girls designed a prosthetic arm from a budget of $40.00 that impressed the judges at the competition in Utah. The California Senate and the California Department of Education recently recognized these young ladies. One student will attend UC Irvine this fall, and the other will attend UC Berkeley. These students may not have thought of pursuing STEM fields at these campuses if it were not for their involvement in MESA.*

**(School district)** has been a great partner of MESA. Together, we can make our students the next champions of the national engineering design competition in June 2016!

The new MESA competition is called the Prosthetic Arm Challenge 2.0. Students will be taught by our MESA advisors—**(School district)’s** science and math teachers --- to design a prosthetic arm that will use an Arduino kit (a circuit) that will challenge our students in learning engineering design that is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Each team will prepare a technical paper, an academic display and compete in performance and speech presentation.

**(School district)** will need 1 Arduino kit for every team of 2 to 4 students. That would be up to **(XX)** kits for all **(XX)** MESA students entering this coming fall. An Arduino kit costs $50 each --- a cost of up to **$\_\_** per school site in your district.

The **(center name)** MESA Center will provide the training for **(XX)** teachers in your district. We need your help to purchase the Arduino kits to train these teachers and use the same kits for the student teams. Our total budget for the **(school district)** is **$\_\_**. This amount will help **(XX)** students of **(school district)** compete with (**20,000 minus the # district’s students**) MESA students in California.

Please help us provide these students the opportunity to learn new STEM skills and compete in the new MESA national engineering design challenge. It would be a great investment for the **(school district)**’s students and for the whole community of **(city/county)**!