

*Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow
Four States, One Region, Infinite Possibilities*



24 July 2014

Dr. Arona C. Ndoffene Diouf

Minister - Special Advisor to the President
for Mining, Energy, Environment & Agriculture
The Presidency of the Republic of Senegal

Re: **Presentation:** 2014 Trans-Atlantic Leadership in Science Award
Event: SMART Capitol Hill Forum
Date: 29 July 2014 from 12:30 – 2:30 PM
Location: US Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC,

Dear Dr. Diouf,

We hope that this letter finds you well.

We thank you for your continued interest in Strengthening the Mid-Atlantic Region for Tomorrow ("SMART") as it continues to expand its footprint into Senegal and West Africa. SMART has been developing relationships with its Member Institutions in these regions for several years. SMART and the Department of Commerce have worked together on advancing initiatives important to the many Congressional Members that support SMART.

In the United States and many other developed and developing countries around the world, there exists a much needed commitment to provide access to educational activities focused on the Sciences. It is virtually impossible to build a sustainable workforce without a magnitude of workers trained in all areas of science at all levels. SMART is very committed to developing economic and workforce activities that maximize the development and expansion of opportunities in the sciences.

With the above consideration, SMART is very excited to notify you that you have been selected as the recipient of the **2014 SMART Trans-Atlantic Leadership in Sciences Award**. You have been selected in recognition of your many years of dedicated leadership in the advancement of science in the states of New York, New Jersey & North Carolina and the Republic of Senegal and your continuing support of scientific collaboration between Africa and the SMART Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States of America. SMART has been dedicated to supporting programs in the States where you held leadership positions in their School Districts as well as their Universities.

As you are aware, SMART (www.smartstates.com) is a not-for-profit group which is the associated group that executes the vision of the SMART Congressional Caucus and Delegation, which is a Congressional Delegation that includes the 4-state region of DE, MD, NJ & PA. It includes 8 Senators & 39 Members of Congress. SMART brings the Delegation together with academia, national labs, corporations & the federal agencies. The Delegation is focused on supporting regional, national and international initiatives around R&D for science and technology for workforce/economic development and STEM education.

As background, SMART has recognized the current need for developing African countries to generate opportunities for “Capacity Building” within their indigenous populations.

SMART is very excited to continue developing the relationships vital to successful project development in Senegal. The capabilities generated by these projects will add to the many successful programs that are assisting West Africa in overcoming the many barriers in order to provide West Africa with new benefits that will advance the Region in a self-sustaining manner.

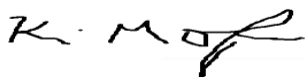
For this reason, SMART is very excited to present the **2014 SMART Trans-Atlantic Leadership in Sciences Award**.

We hope that you can join us in Washington, DC for the SMART Capitol Hill Forum. We fully understand that you may not be able to attend the event. If you would like to designate a representative to accept the Award on your behalf, we would welcome your designee warmly. If you would like to send a Letter or Statement to be read on your behalf, we would be happy to read it for you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Best regards,



Kevin M. Doyle
Executive Committee Member
Project Coordinator



Robert C. Carullo
Executive Director