



**Education Reform Toolkit:  
Letters to the Editor #2**

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my support for what Mary Larson said in her recent column, “Students Must Master 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills.” As the third-generation owner of a chain of local hardware stores, I care deeply about how our education system will prepare our community—and our nation—for a prosperous future.

Clearly, such an important enterprise calls upon us to engage in a significant remodeling effort, as the new world will require all of our young people to master both the basic skills and the newer skills that are fundamental to a rounded education. Knowing how to analyze information, manage technology, solve problems, and work as part of a diverse team, are essential skills for those stocking shelves and taking inventory in my stores as well as for those who are managing the operation.

So let’s work together to reinforce the bearing walls that hold up the educational system, while updating the parts of the system that are not yet “up to code.”

Sincerely,

Donald Pierce  
MainValue Hardware

(179 words)