



MOE

March 14, 2002

Ms. Kathy Phelan
President
Idaho Education Association
P.O. Box 2638
Boise, ID 83701-0638

Dear Ms. Phelan:

On behalf of NASA's Administrator, Sean O'Keefe, I would like to thank you for your letter of February 4, 2002, concerning Barbara Morgan and our Teacher in Space program.

We can understand your frustration with the length of time Barbara has been in training.

We have changed Barbara from the Teacher in Space program to an Education Mission Specialist Astronaut so she would receive the proper training to be flight ready upon a mission assignment.

Barbara is a member of the Class of 1998 Mission Specialist Astronaut and awaiting assignment like her classmates. There are still a couple of Astronauts from the Class of 1998 that need a mission assignment. After the 1998 assignment, we will assign Barbara's class. Be assured, I am committed to flying Barbara as soon as schedule's permit.

We agree with your many points that the teachers of the world need the satisfaction of closure to this commitment. NASA will fly Barbara in the not too distant future.

Again, thank you for raising our consciousness on behalf of all educators. It will be a happy moment for both your profession and NASA the day we are able to fly Barbara.

Cordially,



Frederick D. Gregory
Associate Administrator
for Office Space Flight

cc:
FEMA, Dwyer
MOE/MS, Taylor
Ms. Townsend