March 29, 2016

Dear DPS Board of Education,

I write as the Director of the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice program, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, School of Public Affairs, to highly support Ms. Hervey’s Letter of Intent to develop the Academy of Law, Justice and Forensics. The career education academy will focus on practitioner and project based learning curriculum, a model focusing on career and college readiness, emphasizing critical thinking and writing skills, all essential to criminal justice practitioners.

The Academy will provide students with real life and educational experiences, both in practice and theory. This approach is necessary to effectively provide students with an understanding of their career pathway. The career education academy would also provide students with the opportunity for concurrent registration with two and four-year colleges/universities within the state. The BACJ program at UCCS would fully support concurrent registration, which would provide students with post- secondary credit while still enrolled in high school. The UCCS BACJ program currently participates with 4 high schools in the Colorado Springs area supporting concurrent registration of criminal justice / forensic studies courses.

Ethics in criminal justice is a major topic in today’s society. The Academy will assist students in developing core values through scenario based themes related to social issues facing society, thus ensuring strong ethical standards. The Academy will also focus on preparing graduates to attend universities of their choice and to successfully complete in today’s workforce.

Thank you for considering this letter in support of the Academy of Law, Justice, and Forensics. Please feel free to contact me at mmartin8@uccs.edu or 719-255-5161 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Martinez