Department of Physics & Astronomy

December 17, 2020

To: Commissioner Mike Morath Texas Education Agency 1701 N. Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78701

Subject: Letter of Support for 7Cs Academy

Dear Commissioner Morath:

I am writing this letter as a faculty member of The University of Texas at San Antonio in support of 7Cs Academy to start a PreK-8 public charter school in San Antonio, Texas.

The multifaceted intervention plan guiding 7Cs Academy's whole child education with an emphasis on STEM areas of study, addresses the concerns recently described by The National Science Board indicating that the number of citizens and permanent residents entering STEM programs in the United States is presently declining, while the projected number of new STEM positions is increasing. Thus, it is imperative that actions be taken to attract and retain students in science and engineering fields.

From my personal experience as a teacher and mentor, it is unquestionable that children must have access to an excellent education to prepare them not only to attend college, but also to be proactive and fruitful participants in today's society. The high-quality teaching and learning that 7Cs Academy has planned will, no doubt, effectively deliver whole child education by building on an evidence-based practice called Designing Learning, which is a model that focuses on higher-level literacy and numeracy skills to build intellectual, human, and moral character virtues in children.

The proposed 7Cs Academy offering an education for children with an emphasis on STEM fields is timely, needed and responds well to current societal requirements and expectations. I sincerely hope you see the benefit that 7Cs Academy will bring to the students and their families in San Antonio.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at if I can be of more assistance.

Sincerely,

Arturo A. Ayon, Ph.D.
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