

11 December 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 an independent researcher, formerly a Principal Economist (now Retired), Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Federal Reserve Board, Washington, DC in support of 7Cs Academy to start a PreK – 8 public charter school in San Antonio, Texas.

I have been a long-time colleague and friend of Elda Flores, Board Member of the 7Cs Academy. Her contribution to advancing educational opportunities for the youth of South Texas and for the State of Texas is both exemplary and pragmatic. We need far more educators committed to the future of educational opportunities of Texas youth who also craft new and innovative methods to train and prepare our youth for the rapid economic and demographic changes our state and country are currently experiencing. The 7Cs Academy provides such a 21st century educational intervention for our next generation of diverse Texas youth by preparing them to be STEM-oriented critical thinkers as well as community and civic leaders.

The multifaceted intervention plan guiding 7Cs Academy's whole child education is grounded in meeting the current and future demand for more educational opportunities that combine cognitive, hands-on learning interventions in order to prepare students for the applied knowledge required to navigate and fully participate in an innovation-driven Knowledge and Service Economy. The need for a wholistic educational environment that prepares our diverse youth to meet the rapidly changing economic conditions and new market structures they will face is now. 7Cs Academy provides the educational training and experience for Texas youth in a manner that integrates a strong curriculum to address the lived-reality of new economic challenges. As a trained Econometrician and member of the [American Statistical Association](#), I have benefited from the [Head, Heart, Hands and Health](#) curriculum of Texas 4-H organization for youth and find that the 7Cs Academy creates a performance driven curriculum that both integrates and supersedes the curriculum of 4-H in preparing our diverse youth for their future careers and job opportunities. The 7Cs Academy's carefully crafted drill-down curriculum focused on providing students with strong Character, Competencies, Communication, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity and Citizenship (7Cs) skills combined with a low-density teacher-student ratio (1 teacher: 9 students) will provide our diverse youth with the experiential knowledge to excel at the next stage of their educational journey.

We sincerely hope you see the benefit that 7Cs Academy will bring to the students and their families in San Antonio.

Respectfully,



Bárbara J. Robles, PhD

Principal Economist (Retired)
Fellow, National Academy of Social Insurance
Board Member, National Hispanic Coalition on Aging