



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 10, 2014

Dr. Chui L. Tsang  
Superintendent and President  
Santa Monica College  
1900 Pico Boulevard  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Dear Dr. Tsang,

As President of the Santa Monica/Malibu School Board, I affirm my support of Santa Monica College's (SMC) application for a baccalaureate degree in Interaction Design. I can testify to our institutions long history of collaborative work with our partnerships in the LA HITECH consortium, AB86 adult education consortium, SB1070 grant, and other local programs. SMC's role in the community is a testament to its commitment to education for all students.

Our students at Santa Monica/Malibu Unified District will be benefactors of this degree that will give them yet another great choice for an affordable, higher education experience. The degree can't come in a most opportune time when Santa Monica lying in the midst of *Silicon Beach* and home to more than 500 tech start companies will be employing our students once they finish the BA in Interaction Design. This degree is a win-win for students and for our local economy.

SMC has always opened the doors to our high school students via dual/concurrent enrollment and the Young Collegian program allowing them to acquire college credits before high school graduation. Our more diverse, first-time college attendees use SMC as the stepping stone to the UCs and CSUs. As a result, SMC is the #1 in UC and CSU transfers for African-American and Latino/Chicano students. The BA degree would just be another layer of "icing on the cake".

I urge you take all necessary steps to pursue having SMC named as one of the community colleges for the BA degree. Our students, our city and the State of California will be the benefactors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Leon-Vazquez". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maria Leon-Vazquez  
President  
Santa Monica/Malibu School Board

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