



December 15, 2014

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

Dear Dr. Tsang,

I am excited and enthusiastic to hear that you are considering offering a baccalaureate degree in Interaction Design at Santa Monica College.

As a successful graduate in the technology field, I can't stress enough how important a Bachelor's degree is within the technology community. Having a degree not only gave me the opportunity to continue learning what I love to do, but also gave me a competitive edge against other candidates with similar skill sets. Having a Bachelor's degree in today's marketplace is no longer a nice-to-have, but a standard on which every candidate is measured. The workforce today needs more educated talent than ever before. One of our biggest challenges is finding candidates that not only have relevant work experience, but traditional education behind them.

I chose SMC because the college had the highest transfer rates to Four Year programs, as well as an affordable education. Because of SMC, I was able to hit the ground running, at far more accelerated pace than most individuals currently in the Tech space. I was able to easily adapt with the latest software programs when I entered the work force again, this time with a relevant background for what I was pursuing.

I also used my Montgomery GI Bill to pay for education and the experience was smooth, thanks to the VA Department at the school. I was able to have a worry-free education, focusing on the subjects that were most important to me.

I whole-heartedly support your proposal with enthusiasm and look forward to meeting your graduates as soon as possible!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Felix L. Montanez III", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Felix L Montanez III
Senior Software Engineer, iamplus
Online Services
<http://iamplus.com>