



*"You're not the boss of me."
-Founding Member Sam T. Durbin*

February 6, 2015

Dr. Erlinda J. Martinez
President, Santa Ana College
1530 West 17th St.
Santa Ana, CA 92706

Dear Dr. Martinez,

Alliance of Abilities is pleased to write this letter in support of Santa Ana College's proposed baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies. We are pleased that Santa Ana College continues to host a highly successful Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. And the proposed B.S. degree features more in-depth training and research-based evidence for best practices in the field and will provide a solid foundation for practitioners seeking to transition into graduate-level course work in Occupational Therapy.

Alliance of Abilities has two psychosocial, clubhouses that follow the International Clubhouse Model (www.iccd.org). Integrity House, located in Santa Ana, serves approximately 105 members, and Lotus House, located in Long Beach, serves approximately 40 members. The Clubhouse Model is a non-medical, community-based environment serving adults with a variety of disabilities including: developmental (such as Down Syndrome, autism, and cerebral palsy), traumatic brain injury, mental illness, and several with a dual diagnosis. The members receive Level One Occupational therapy Services through the internship programs of USC and CSUDH. The Santa Ana College COTA students work alongside these interns, providing an opportunity for both students and members to learn from each other. We have been working alongside Santa Ana College for many years to provide this experience and hope to continue for many years to come. The addition of the B.S. degree will only make a very successful project even better.

In supporting Santa Ana College's proposal, we acknowledge that the baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies would increase the breadth and depth in all areas of clinical training of OTA Students and COTA staff

Alliance of Abilities will continue to work with Santa Ana College and the current Occupational Therapy Assistant program as well as proposed Occupational Studies baccalaureate degree program.



Cathy DeMello
Executive Director

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