



Santa Ana Unified School District

Richard L. Miller, Ph.D., Superintendent

February 6, 2015

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

Dear Dr. Martinez:

The Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) is pleased to write this letter in support of Santa Ana College's proposed baccalaureate degree in Occupational Studies. We have been early and sustained supporters of the project and believe that the launching of it will inspire students throughout the school district to imagine their academic and professional futures differently because a public, open-access institution of higher education offers the B.A. here in Santa Ana.

This program will be a significant addition to the college and career pathways already in place and under development between Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) and Santa Ana College in fields such as Bio-Technology, Law, Teacher Preparation, and more. It builds on a long history of working intersegmentally in Santa Ana on behalf of students that has seen college-going overall rise to 73% last year from 58% in 2010. Serving approximately 60,000 students annually, SAUSD is one of California's largest school districts, with a population of students who are highly motivated to attend college and will be the first in their families to do so. Interest in allied health fields is extremely high in our student population and the opportunity to make history by having SAUSD students be among the first to earn their B.A. degrees in this highly marketable field at Santa Ana College will strengthen our community as it fills a critical workforce need.

In closing, I would like to express my enthusiastic support for moving from proposal to pathway building in Occupational Studies and to confirm that SAUSD is eager to customize the high school program of study that will put students on a path to success in Occupational Studies at Santa Ana College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Miller".

Rick Miller, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Santa Ana Unified School District

1601 E. Chestnut Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92701, (714) 558-5501

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