

August 17, 2018

Monica Garcia, Board President  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
Board of Education  
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Support Renewal of the Charter of Anahuacalmecac

Dear Monica Garcia,

On behalf of the children, youth, parents, and educators that make up the Anahuacalmecac community, I call for your support for the renewal of the charter of Anahuacalmecac.

Anahuacalmecac is currently the only public school in Los Angeles that includes as a part of its core curriculum indigenous language and culture in a comprehensive, college preparatory, International Baccalaureate World School continuum. Over its sixteen year history, Anahuacalmecac has received acclaim from various respected external organizations including the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the International Baccalaureate, the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, the California Charter Schools Association, the National Council for La Raza (UNIDOS US) and the Native American Alliance for Charter Schools. Over the years, Anahuacalmecac students have represented their community before the Los Angeles City Council, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and even the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues under the guidance of educators and elders. Last year, Anahuacalmecac students and educators led the historic community-based campaign to abolish Columbus Day and adopt Indigenous Peoples Day in the City of Los Angeles.

Anahuacalmecac students consistently demonstrate increased academic achievement with one hundred percent of our senior class graduating. In 2018, eighty percent of our graduates met the University of California/California State University requirements and forty seven percent were accepted to a four year college. Fifty three percent enrolled in a two-year secondary college. Further, thirty percent of our graduates earned the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma, and twenty percent were awarded the State Seal of Biliteracy.

Graduation from Anahuacalmecac is a milestone comprised of improved academic achievement in Mathematics and English Language Arts, college and career readiness, cultural curriculum, and intellectual and linguistic indigenous knowledge, becoming what we call an IndigeNations Scholar. Additionally, Anahuacalmecac has notably advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples by developing a curriculum responsive to its own People. The inclusion of indigenous arts, music, sports, dance and mathematics continues to prepare well rounded youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a grounded sense of self and community.

For all these reasons, I, Shannon Rivers, strongly support and urge you to renew the Charter of Anahuacalmecac.

Sincerely,

Shannon Rivers

Native American Traditional/Cultural Advisor  
for Indigenous Inmate Populations:  
La Palma Correctional Center - Eloy, AZ & Coconino County Sheriff's Office - Flagstaff, AZ