



January 18, 2011

CITY OF
TUCSON

RICHARD G. FIMBRES
VICE MAYOR
WARD 5

Mr. John Pedicone
Superintendent – Tucson Unified School District
1010 E. 10th Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Dear Superintendent Pedicone:

I want to express my appreciation for your commitment to education through your career and for now becoming the next Superintendent of the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD). I support your effort for the betterment of Tucson's future, its youth, through your commitment and for showing your leadership by taking a position such as Superintendent during these tough economic times.

As a fellow public official, I understand and empathize with your situation, inheriting such circumstances you now face and the leader of the largest school district in Pima County. Eight days after being sworn into office on December 7, 2009, the Mayor and Council had to deal with a \$33.5 million dollar, budgetary shortfall. Financial uncertainties aside, I am writing to you about the ethnic studies program which had and continues to be one of the shining beacons of light for TUSD's staff, faculty and most importantly, our future, the youth.

TUSD's ethnic studies program does what other programs offered by the school district, it educates the youth, especially those of the largest growing population, the Latino/a community, about the people, places and most importantly, their history so they can be better citizens and to fully participate in society. The recent events and legislative maneuvering seeks to marginalize segments of our population, something this community was not built on. I implore that you consider all options within your ability as Superintendent to ensure that the program can continue its benefits to Tucson's future, its youth.

Thank you for your consideration for of this letter. I would like to set up a meeting with you in regard to another matter. Eileen Contreras from my office will be calling to make arrangements.

Again my appreciation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard G. Fimbres".

Richard Fimbres
Vice Mayor (Ward 5)