

VENTURA GONZALES, JR.
MAYOR

COUNCILMEN:

JOSE D. CUEVAS
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CITY MANAGER

Corinne Sanchez
Montal Systems Inc.

TERESA P. FLORES

CITY CLERK

601 S. Brand
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JESSE GAMEZ

CITY ATTORNEY

Dear Corinne:

JULIAN SALAS

MUNICIPAL JUDGE

First of all I do want to express our appreciation for your incorporating women from Texas into the Institute to prepare Chicanas for Higher Educational Professions. Needless to say the very existence of this type of effort is a credit to Montal Educational Associates and to the funding Agencies.

We do believe, however, that some serious problems exist in the program and will effect future effectiveness of the program, at least from Texas perspective unless of effort is made to overcome them.

The sorriest of this is Texas representation on the Advisory Committee which as Sally Andrade has pointed out includes an elusive man, Rudy Ramirez and an anglo woman. This is sad considering the great length of time you personally have worked with Texas Chicanas. But realizing that perhaps there was no choice among the persons Montal Inc. knows, I am enclosing a list of potential Advisory Committee Candidates for your consideration. We would like to see at least two Chicanas from Texas named to the committee immediately. Corinne, please understand that two important principles are involved here, not pride and ego but 1. opportunity for Chicanas to develop professionally by exposure to such committies; if we don't do it in Chicana efforts, where else? 2. politics involved when recruitment time comes around. When we recruited for this year's program and approached administrators for leaves of absences for the women, we were the laughing-stock for the State. Imagine sending Chicanas to a Chicana program where we were represented by a man and a Gringa. They said if Montal had such low opinion of Chicanas from Texas why did we want to be included at all?

The next item is the lack of representation of Texas on the curriculum design staff. Here women from Texas say, at least you could have "given" one position to Tejas. We have our numble resources also, and its very important that Texas with its 700,000 children in the school districts be represented at that level. We have our needs and our point of view, so different from the California at this level.

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Handwritten note:
Dear Corinne

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Again this was a very bad PR point to cover with the people who were in positions to decide whether women could attend or not.


Okay, logistics presented different problems for us. As you know we had a period of a week to ten days in which to recruit. Only superhuman efforts by Sally Andrade, the participants, and others produced the six applicants from Texas. If we had been notified at least by June 20th, things would have been different.

Of course the absence of travel funds made the whole program an impossibility for some of the women who would have benefitted most from the Institute. We definitely need this problem solved by next Institute time. We have great hopes that despite these problems and omissions and the apparent "desprecio" committed on Texas Chicanas our representatives at the Institute will learn and grow. And they certainly joined the program with this in mind.

But how nicer it would have been and what potential would have been served this year if we had been really incorporated in the program. And please don't use excuses of lack of money to for advance planning of courses or preparations of bibliographies or resources. Because you know our character of involvement and participation. Personally, I have a 70-item bibliography on the Chicana that up to now has been shared with our community free of charge. You know, we would have welcomed the opportunity to serve with or without pay. What hurts the most is that we totally excluded from participation.

De todas formas estamos en el futuro para servirles en lo que sea necesario.

Sinceramente,



Martha P. Cotera
Director
Crystal City
Memorial Library

cc Niña Moncada, Cristal, Irma Esparza, Cristal, Ninfa Lozano, Cristal, Carolina Pena, San Antonio, Sally Andrade, Cristal, Maria Jimenez, Houston, Ines Tovar, Houston, Dora Gonzales, Austin, Alicia Salinas, San Antonio, Rosa Maria Gonzales, Austin, Maria L. Lopez, El Paso, Juanita Alba Zamora, Austin, Laredo, Irma Camacho, El Paso.

Potential Advisory Committee
Candidates

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