



American Educational
Research Association

February 22, 2012

Miguel Cuevas
Tucson Unified School District No. 1 Governing Board
1010 E. Tenth St.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Dear Mr. Cuevas:

On behalf of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), I am writing to inform you directly that the governing Council of the Association in a unanimous resolution urges the Governing Board of the Tucson Unified School District No. 1 (TUSD) to reinstate its Mexican American Studies program. With 25,000 members, AERA is the nation's leading scientific and scholarly association dedicated to advancing knowledge about education, encouraging scholarly inquiry related to education, and promoting the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.

We understand the context that led to the Governing Board's action of January 10, 2012, when the TUSD faced a 10 percent reduction in funds provided by the Arizona Department of Education. Nevertheless, we are quite concerned that you eliminated the Mexican American Studies program and urge you to design and reintroduce such courses. The suspension of these courses is disheartening in light of the compelling scientific evidence that they reduce prejudice and race bias and help build critical-thinking skills.

In a related resolution to the Arizona State Legislature, AERA urges the repeal of HB2281, which amended the statutes on school curriculum related to the teaching of ethnic studies.

Both resolutions are enclosed and will be made public on February 23, 2012. AERA welcomes the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Governing Board. Also, as set forth in the resolution, AERA would upon the request of the Governing Board recommend experts who could advise on the development and evaluation of such a course or courses.

Sincerely,

Felice J. Levine, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Enclosure