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March 29, 2011

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
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To Whom It May Concern:

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is committed to excellence in educating all children. The District, always looking for models of excellence and new ways to improve how we teach our children, has proudly partnered with *Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors* "the nation's first evidence-based, comprehensive training program for Latino parents with children ages 0-5."

Nearly 75% of student enrollment in Kindergarten is Latino or Hispanic. The District is confident that the *Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors* curriculum will help raise student achievement levels. The 3-day Facilitator Institute prepares parents, teachers and community leaders to teach the full course - a train-the-trainer format - to parents. It is based on the premise that enhancing parenting skills early in a child's life leads to economic and societal benefits, a philosophy shared throughout the District.

The District first had the privilege of working with *Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors* in the spring of 2010. It was at that point that we first witnessed the results of the 3-day Facilitator Institute. Not only did it delve into the richness of what the curriculum offered, it exemplified the popular education methodology in which the program is rooted.

To date, the District is pleased to announce that over 90 facilitators have been trained. Over 80 schools/sites have or are currently implementing the program. We are diligently working to reach over 3,000 parents by December 2011, and are actively pursuing additional funding sources to continue teaching the curriculum. Graduating parents of the curriculum taught by our trained Facilitators have indicated in surveys that they have an increased confidence about parenting skills:

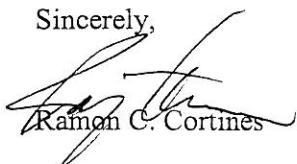
"The sessions are very useful and they help us a great deal to be better parents with our children, to know how to help them in all of their needs and to understand them." – **participating parent in 2010**

Graduating parents have become more involved in their communities and in their home activities that promote children's school readiness:

"I will take my daughter more often to the library and I will do more activities in which I can dialogue with her."
– **participating parent in 2011**

Students and families are demanding high quality schools that provide a rich, broad-based education. The District shares that same goal. We want all of our students to graduate, and become more productive and contributing members in our communities. *Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors* is a proven program that will help raise student achievement levels. It will provide parents tools and techniques to participate with the District in ways to improve how we educate our children.

Sincerely,


Ramon C. Cortines