



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

A Campus of the San Bernardino Community College District

Date: January 9, 2015

Re: CSUSB's Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) proposal

Dear Drs. Constino & Fleming,

As the President of Crafton Hills College, I would like to extend my support for California State University San Bernardino's (CSUSB) proposal to the NSF's IUSE competition. The growing collaboration between Crafton Hills College and CSUSB is one of the most promising endeavors our leaders and faculty members are undertaking to address the educational attainment disparities that exist within this region of Southern California. The proposed activities CSUSB will undertake to provide improved teaching of undergraduate STEM courses is one of the most critical needs in this area. At both of our institutions we have made significant investments in efforts to increase the number of students entering STEM programs and the STEM degrees earned and to shorten time to graduation, particularly among underrepresented students. The planned interventions represent very promising new strategies to help our students overcome the educational challenges that still exist in the STEM disciplines and to increase retention and graduation rates.

I am in full support of your plans to expand and enhance the training of faculty members in STEM with professional development focused upon pedagogy. Most important for our region, your plan will involve expanded collaboration between community college and four-year faculty members through the development of faculty learning communities. On my direction, the college's leadership team including Rick Hogrefe, Dean of Arts and Sciences, will encourage two cohorts of up to six STEM adjunct and full-time faculty members in each cohort to fully engage in the practitioner seminars developed by CSUSB with the IUSE grant from the National Science Foundation. In addition, Crafton Hills College's Professional Development Coordinator will collaborate with CSUSB's Teaching Resource Center Director to help facilitate the training of faculty from both colleges.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Marshall, Ed.D.
President, Crafton Hills College