

ASU COLLEGE of
LIBERAL ARTS
& SCIENCES
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Date: March 18, 2009
To: Carlos Velez-Ibanez, Chair, Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies
From: Mary Margaret Fonow, Director, School of Social Transformation
Re: Support for proposed PhD in Transborder Studies

M.M.F.

This is a unique and highly innovative proposal to establish a new transdisciplinary PhD in Transborder Studies. The design, content and implementation are grounded in an academically rigorous understanding of national borders. The approach is the best possible combination of basic and applied research and the areas of concentration fit the expertise of faculty. There are no existing programs that focus on the transnational economic, social, ecological and cultural dynamics of the border in such an integrative fashion. Recruiting students from both sides of the border and staggering the admissions of new cohorts is a brilliant decision. This will allow students to work together intensely in a productive learning environment—one with an emphasis on mutual respect, integrative learning and reciprocal exchanges of information and ideas. Treating the border as a transnational region is the right way to go and ASU is in a position to lead the way.

The business plan is solid and makes the best possible use of resources both in the U.S. and Mexico. The assessment plan is feasible and rigorous and I do not see any roadblocks to completion of degree. The quality of the faculty who will be involved is exceptional. They are productive scholars with national and international visibility. The program has the appropriate FTE to offer the core curriculum for the PhD and will draw on other faculty from around the university.

I am very enthusiastic about this degree and I can see where there is real synergy between the graduate programs and certificates in the new School of Social Transformation and the proposed degree. Our graduate certificates in gender studies and in justice studies will be enhanced by the participation of our students from this proposed degree. Our students will be able to deepen their understanding of gender and justice by learning more about the border—making them very competitive on the job market. The curriculum is innovative, cutting edge and takes full advantage of the university resources. There is not duplication or waste. In addition being able to draw on resources from academic institutions in Mexico is a plus.

This is an exciting proposal and the graduates of this program will be important to the future of our region. I pledge my full support.

Women & Gender Studies Program

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March 4, 2009

Carlos Velez Ibanez
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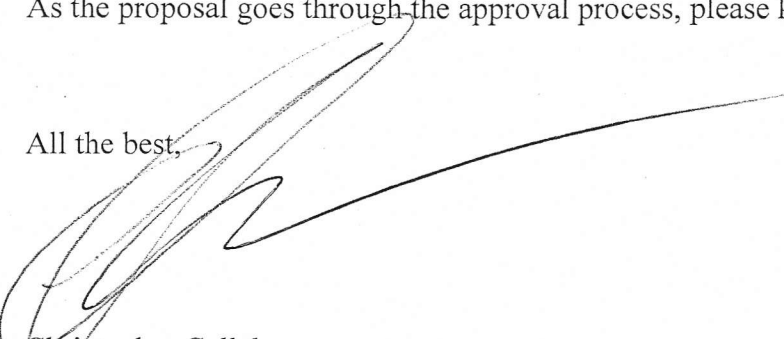
Dear Carlos,

The Cronkite School enthusiastically supports the Department of Transborder Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies' (TCLS) proposal to establish a Ph.D. in Transborder Studies, the first of its kind in the United States. Given the issues facing border states like Arizona and the increasing globalization of the continent, the time seems particularly ripe to launch such a program. It is clear the proposed program is a logical extension of what you've been doing at the undergraduate and master's levels.

As we prepare to begin our own Ph.D. program, the interdisciplinary nature of yours is especially appealing. I know our students who are interested in transborder issues will be intrigued by your classes and that members of our faculty will be anxious to collaborate with yours and to serve on your students' dissertation committees.

As the proposal goes through the approval process, please keep us posted on its progress.

All the best,



Christopher Callahan
Dean