



## Austin Independent School District

September 19, 2008

Jim Walker, AICP  
Executive Director  
Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project  
PO Box 684766  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Jim,

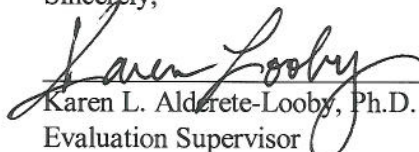
We have enjoyed working with your knowledgeable and professional staff to engage in rigorous research activities designed to identify and provide the supports needed by our students and their families to prepare for and apply to college. Our partnership efficiently and effectively utilizes the resources and expertise offered by both organizations. Together, we have been able to explore ideas about college preparation and aspirations with students, teachers, and parents representing all of our Austin high schools.

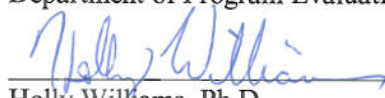
We want to thank you for the resources your organization has provided for this work. Your staff provided us with the additional capacity to conduct focus groups in Spanish and to expediently transcribe the data. As we have conducted our research during the past 2 years, the relationships developed between the researchers from both institutions has provided multiple opportunities for collegial review of results.

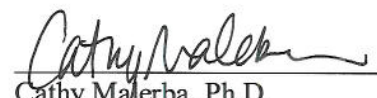
We strongly believe that the continuance of our coordinated data collection, analyses, and reporting will help us to engage in a coherent approach to improving student and family support systems in the Austin area. In AISD, we will use the information to create strong school-based programs that our help all students graduate ready for college, careers, and life. We are happy to hear that you also will be using the work to help community organizations to develop support systems and resources for families that encourage access to postsecondary education.

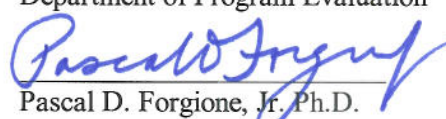
Again, we want to express my appreciation for the opportunity to continue our unique partnership that will enable us to create coherent systems between our school district and the community.

Sincerely,

  
Karen L. Alderete-Looby, Ph.D.  
Evaluation Supervisor  
Department of Program Evaluation

  
Holly Williams, Ph.D.  
Director  
Department of Program Evaluation

  
Cathy Malerba, Ph.D.  
External Research Coordinator  
Department of Program Evaluation

  
Pascal D. Forgione, Jr. Ph.D.  
Superintendent