

Collaborative Educational Programs for the Americas
Leadership Conference
Innovation through Leadership
San Antonio, Texas, October 22-24, 2015
Executive Summary ~ Part III

The primary thrust of CEPA has been the involvement of doctoral students from all fields of education, administration, community affairs, business and the social sciences, who believe that, in a rapidly changing world, all knowledge is integrated and opportunities must be provided to exchange ideas and information from all fields. CEPA embraces vision, risk, and change, community building, and outreach for creating a cadre of qualified leaders to carry out new collaborative initiatives.

A New Brand of Leadership

CEPA depends on voluntary leadership. “*CEPA Conference Days*” saw the arrival of some of the leading educators and scholars from many top-level universities. They included:



Dr. Aaron Tyler, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at St. Mary’s University, joined CEPA 2015, representing his fine university by welcoming the delegates. He also served on the Panel of Leaders, and his contributions resulted in many positive comments from those assembled.

He is an active participant in global interfaith and religious liberty initiatives. Having traveled to and worked in various zones of intercommunal conflict, Tyler’s vocational and research interests lie at the intersection of religion, identity, and peace-building.



When describing the international initiatives at St. Mary’s University, he stated that they do not send students to various countries, rather they meet their students in those countries, demonstrating a new brand of leadership. He made the connection with CEPA’s vision, which is intended to increase mutual understanding between nations. International conferences strengthen the ties which unite us by demonstrating educational and cultural interests, development, and our collective achievements.



Dr. Jude Valdez is Vice President for Community Services at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Representing one of the largest universities in Texas, he spoke for his campus and also welcomed the delegates to the conference. One of the major points that he made was that UTSA was on the path to Tier One, meaning UTSA is becoming known for outstanding research, quality education and economic contributions to the region.

With San Antonio's Mayor, Honorable Ivy R. Taylor, encouraging all universities to be at the forefront in dealing with the challenges of the 21st century, UTSA is heeding the mayor's challenge. They are sharing their vision in the greater San Antonio community and beyond.



Dr. Valdez also spoke of community engagement and acknowledged UTSA's support of CEPA's vision. UTSA has a strong commitment to its outreach initiatives.



Dr. Betty Merchant, is Dean, College of Education & Human Development, University of Texas at San Antonio. A friend of CEPA, she has served on the Panel of Leaders for the past three years. Ethical leadership is her driving force. She mentions "*courage* [to do the right thing/to speak truth to power] as a principle that governs my leadership style. I am also guided by the principles of forgiveness and compassion."

As a panelist, she spoke about how to encourage those you lead to look forward and to creatively generate new questions and novel solutions to organizational challenges. Furthermore, she described how "innovation through leadership requires, in part, a thorough understanding of how and why specific organizational policies or practices were created in addition to the willingness and ability to detach from the constraints of the past."



Dr. Merchant looks forward to increasing the number of students in her college at next year's conference. A forward-thinking leader, she understands that if colleges and universities want to succeed they must seek faculty and students with the ability to collaborate and innovate.

Why CEPA?



It is said that "Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality." As we begin to redefine the leadership direction that we take, we must ask important questions such

as: What are the experiences that are needed to nurture leadership? How do we develop responsible leadership as well as empower and mentor our future leaders? How do we train leaders to project into the future and stay focused on their vision?

These distinguished educators and scholars represent the type of persons CEPA embraces and values: Dr. Cynthia Boettcher and Janet Hammer, Texas A&M University-College Station; Dr. Phyllis Duncan and Dr. Meghan Carmody-Bubb, Our Lady of the Lake University; and Dr. Cornell Thomas, Texas Christian University (L to R).

They collectively took CEPA's outreach initiatives to another level and diplomatically placed CEPA's concept and vision at the forefront. Not only did they bring their entire doctoral classes of thinkers and/or most promising future leaders, but coached and mentored them as well. The best praise, however, comes from a doctoral student when he wrote:

"Dear Dr. Rodriguez, I am writing this letter as a thank you for letting me have the opportunity to participate and attend the CEPA conference in October.

I did not know what to expect and I was pleasantly surprised at the kind of intelligent information that was presented. I was impressed by all that I witnessed: the lunches and the breakfast, the presentations and the panel discussion. Seeing the McNair scholars doing their presentations gave me the inspiration to give my all when it came time to do my presentation later that afternoon. The other presentations by the coordinators and professors were excellent as well, giving me an insight into how we are interwoven in our higher education system and beyond and why there is a constant need for leadership. I was also quite thrilled to receive the certificate after my presentation.

I met many young scholars, from different schools and made many contacts that I hope to keep in touch with as I continue on my educational career.

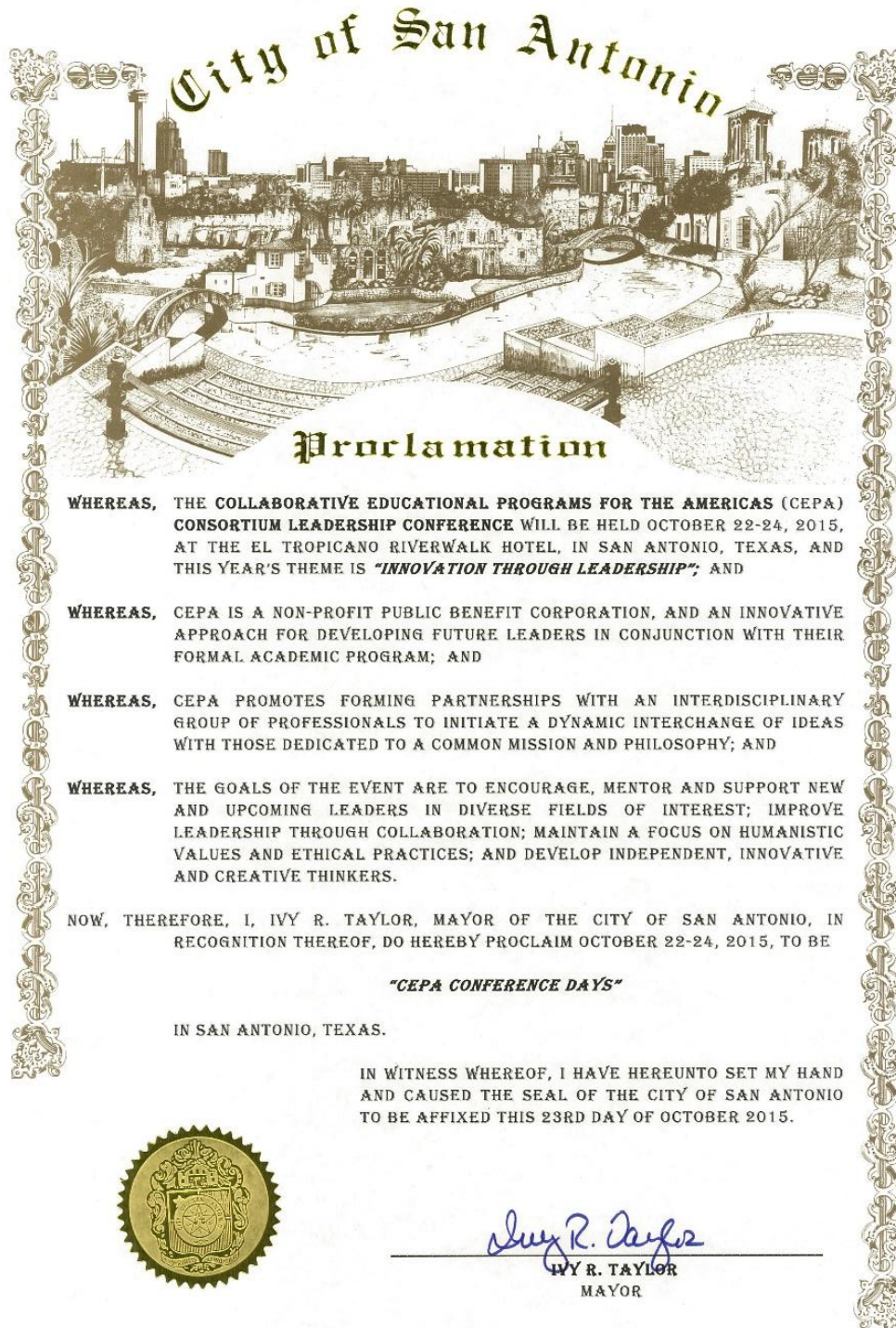
In closing, I would like to say that I want to continue to attend these conferences, yours especially. It reminds me of where I am going and what I doing with my life in academia.

Thank you again and I hope to see and speak to you again soon. Sincerely," Cory Rayburg, MSOL – OLLU, November 2, 2015.



Fred J. Rodríguez, Ph.D., may be reached at cepa2000@earthlink.net

CEPA Days



City of San Antonio

Proclamation

WHEREAS, THE COLLABORATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE AMERICAS (CEPA) CONSORTIUM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 22-24, 2015, AT THE EL TROPICANO RIVERWALK HOTEL, IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND THIS YEAR'S THEME IS *"INNOVATION THROUGH LEADERSHIP"*; AND

WHEREAS, CEPA IS A NON-PROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION, AND AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR FORMAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM; AND

WHEREAS, CEPA PROMOTES FORMING PARTNERSHIPS WITH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS TO INITIATE A DYNAMIC INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS WITH THOSE DEDICATED TO A COMMON MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY; AND

WHEREAS, THE GOALS OF THE EVENT ARE TO ENCOURAGE, MENTOR AND SUPPORT NEW AND UPCOMING LEADERS IN DIVERSE FIELDS OF INTEREST; IMPROVE LEADERSHIP THROUGH COLLABORATION; MAINTAIN A FOCUS ON HUMANISTIC VALUES AND ETHICAL PRACTICES; AND DEVELOP INDEPENDENT, INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE THINKERS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, IVY R. TAYLOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, IN RECOGNITION THEREOF, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 22-24, 2015, TO BE

"CEPA CONFERENCE DAYS"

IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TO BE AFFIXED THIS 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2015.



Ivy R. Taylor
IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR