



## CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

IVY R. TAYLOR  
MAYOR

### WELCOME

As the Mayor of the City of San Antonio, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the Annual 2016 Collaborative Educational Programs for Americas (CEPA) Conference. We are grateful to host our colleagues from across the state and nation who have accepted the challenge of inspiring our youth to fulfill all their future ambitions.

My vision is for San Antonio to be a globally competitive city where every resident is connected to opportunities for prosperity. For far too long, the life outcomes of our young men and women of color have been beholden to the part of San Antonio from which they grew up in. Our future prosperity hinges upon our work in helping all youth, including young men of color, reach their full potential no matter what their background.

In San Antonio, we know that the opportunity gaps for youth of color are significant: Hispanic and black males are almost 60% more likely to be victims of violent crime; and they are one-third more likely than white males to be unemployed. Furthermore, in Bexar County, 83% of males of color graduate from high school in four years compared to 89% for their white counterparts; and 28% of men of color between the ages of 25-34 have obtained a Level 1 certificate or above, while the number for white males is at 50%.

As a city, San Antonio is working hard to change this narrative through the implementation of My Brother's Keeper San Antonio (MBKSA). MBKSA is a community challenge that sets out to ensure that all young people, regardless of what zip code they grow up in, have the same opportunities to succeed. A key strategy for us to accomplish these goals is through mentoring. We know a more diverse leadership community will help to strengthen our city and connect more San Antonians to opportunity.

I applaud CEPA in helping to accomplish these goals and I hope your work at this conference will add to those services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ivy R. Taylor".

Ivy R. Taylor  
Mayor