

THE PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM | Endorsements



POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
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May 19, 2014

Mr. Larry Anmuth
486 Eagle Ridge Drive
Asheville, NC 28803-8578

Dear Mr. Anmuth:

We had the pleasure earlier this year to meet and to share thoughts on the Peace Education Program. I have had the good fortune of knowing Diego and Teresa Apunte for more than a year and through our friendship learning about the Peace Education Program. Please find below my brief thoughts on the merits of this initiative.

First, let me say that I have worked in the criminal justice field for more than twenty-eight years. Early in my career I worked in corrections, both representing correctional agencies and then litigating cases on behalf of prisoners. I have visited institutions of all types throughout the nation. Additionally, I have worked with legal and criminal justice officials from around the world as part of the United States Department of State's public diplomacy programs. I mention this only to underscore the fact that my views are a bit seasoned.

The Peace Education Program comes at a critical time in the history of corrections. As a nation we have practically rejected the idea of rehabilitation. Our society has anchored itself in punitive ideologies and we have discarded any belief of redemption for incarcerated persons. The Peace Education program is a renewal. It rebuts the "nothing works" doctrine and proves that treatment strategies based on the "inner person" do work. I have seen your videos and talked at length with proponents of the program. It is my sincere belief that the Peace Education Program is the kind of initiative correctional institutions need.

I applaud your efforts and support your advocacy. If I can be of help here in North Carolina please don't hesitate to call upon me.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James P. Mayes".

James P. Mayes, M.A., J.D.
Interim Chair and Associate Professor

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