



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

May 15, 2009

Ronald Rubine  
Standing on Common Ground  
512 ½ N. Genesee Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Dear Mr. Rubine:

I want to thank you for coordinating the wonderful Standing on Common Ground leadership development program for 40 students from Markham Middle School in Watts.

As Mayor of Los Angeles and the architect of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools, I have seen firsthand the need to provide leadership development and dispute resolution skills for our students. Through the Standing on Common Ground program, our students were exposed to three days of training that will have a lasting impact in their communities.

I continue to hear positive feedback from the students and faculty regarding their participation in the Transition Institutes, a series of workshops focusing on student engagement, culturally relevant instruction, and creating a college bound environment. Many of these students have rarely, if ever, ventured outside of their immediate Watts community. Exposing them to a Ropes and Challenges course, the Museum of Tolerance, and California State University Dominguez Hills over three days was an incredible experience for each and every one of them.

I also want to thank you for personally raising \$40,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to make this project a reality. The success of our Partnership for Los Angeles Schools is dependent on community partners like you who work to provide a balanced educational experience for our students.

I am looking forward to meeting with you and all of the students who participated in this project next month in city hall. I also look forward to working with you to develop the next Standing on Common Ground project for our students.

Thank you once again for your support.

Very truly yours,

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
Mayor