

April 6, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

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The Animo FTA community has had the distinct privilege of working with Ron Rubine and his organization *Standing on Common Ground* several times over the past few years. Ron and his colleagues have designed workshops on leadership training, community-building, and diversity awareness that have contributed immensely to our school's culture and student achievement.

Each time we've looked to set up an event or series of events with *Standing on Common Ground*, Ron has devoted a substantial amount of time to meeting with our school's administration, staff, parents, and students – a degree of preparation that has allowed him to purpose-build each activity for our unique circumstances and educational approach. Ron's long-standing working relationships with a variety of Southern California camps, ropes courses, museums, and other venues enable *Standing On Common Ground* to consistently secure the ideal setting at favorable prices, a critical feature for an institution (like ours) that has a minimal amount of budget "wiggle room".

This commitment and attention to detail don't stop once the event has wound-down. Ron routinely stops by our site to touch base with students and adults regarding the issues they'd worked on at previous workshops. Often these quick checks turn into extended counseling and advising sessions. Considering the delicacy of many of the issues that affect our stakeholder population, and the frequent subtle-to-seismic changes that can burst out within our small student body, the knowledge that I have someone available at any point in the school year who both knows our organization well and possesses the tools to assist our staff and students in a variety of ways, is both reassuring and invaluable.

I would not hesitate to recommend the services of Ron Rubine and *Standing On Common Ground* to any institution. Feel free to contact me if you'd like more specific feedback on our experiences.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Bachrach  
Principal