



Central California Social Welfare,
Evaluation and Training Center

December 7, 2015

Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D.
Regents' Professor, Director SIRC/CITIR
Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health
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Virginia Rondero Hernandez, Ph.D., LCSW
Chair/Program Director, Department of Social Work Education
California State University, Fresno
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Fresno, CA 93740-8019

Dear Dr. Hernandez,

This letter is in support of the initiative you are leading to secure funding to establish a Western Regional Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center for Health Disparities Research on Chronic Disease Prevention. The established partnership between the Central California Area Social Services Consortium (CCASSC) and Fresno State has become a significant asset in our efforts to improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities within the Central California region. Moreover, the application is consistent with the mission of CCASSC which is made up of administrators of the twelve public human service agencies in the Central California region.

On behalf of the CCASSC membership I strongly support the proposed aims for the collaboration and pledge full support from our consortium. We are excited about the opportunity to address tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, obesity and diabetes by expanding the *keepin' it REAL* (kiR) and *Every Little Step Counts* (ELSC) interventions into our communities. We know your team of interdisciplinary scholars from both Arizona State University and California State University, Fresno will help us improve health outcomes across the youth, family, school, and policy levels.

Thank you for including us in this innovative and significant project. We strongly support your application to the National Institutes of Health National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and look forward to a productive partnership.

Sincerely,

David J Foster, LCSW
Staff Director
Central California Area Social Services Consortium (CCASSC)

Central California Area Social Service Consortium
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