MEMORANDUM

TO: John Folkins, Provost
FROM: Josué Cruz, Jr., Dean
SUBJ: SIS/STL Program Review Response
DATE: October 22, 2004

It is the purpose of this communiqué to indicate to you my proposal for addressing the findings of the PRC relative to the recent review of the former School of Education and Intervention Services. Since the rendering of the recommendations by the PRC, there are now two schools: School of Teaching and Learning and School of Intervention Services. Although the initial recommendations were made under the old organizational structure, both of the new schools intend to work towards their fulfillment.

In response to each of the findings requiring action, I propose the following:

1. **Reconfiguration into Two Schools.**
   Contrary to what the report asserts, the decision to split into two schools was not done in haste or without consultation. In keeping with the NCATE review of the College, the decision was made to move into a new organizational structure to better serve the students, increase efficiency and maintain program integrity.

2. **Information Gathering.**
   This concern is in process of being remedied. The College has hired a data coordinator to create and maintain any and all information necessary to meet programmatic, College, University and external agency needs. The office is now fully operational.

3. **Approaches to Planning and Program Evaluation.**
   Alleviating this concern is the new office for data gathering and maintenance (see above). Given the professional role that the School plays, compliance is a sometimes difficult and complicated task. On the one hand we are accountable to particular program approval bodies (approximately 10 not including the state) to which we report to in addition to the University. This is an excellent point and one that we will continue to work on.
4. *Future Operation as Independent Schools.*
   History would suggest that this will not be a major factor in the success of the two Schools. They have for several years operated as separate entities and are well positioned to work accordingly. We will, nevertheless, be vigilant of the new configuration.

5. *Variation in Program Strength and Effectiveness.*
   This will be monitored closely, year to year, and make programmatic recommendations accordingly.

   We will take a close look at this recommendation throughout this academic year. The point raised by the PRC is well taken.

   This is a national problem and not one unique to the School. The College is currently engaging in an aggressive “targeted recruitment” strategy that will hopefully impact the diversity of the student body, faculty and staff. This theme has been identified by the faculty as one of its major goals for the next five years.

8. *Student Assessment.*
   This concern has been addressed as a College-wide problem. Meetings have been held with a representative of the Office of the Provost to bring resolution. Much of the problem is related to item #3 in the previous page. Alignment between all the different entities needing information has been reconciled.