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UNIVERSITY**

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Mr. Robert Mooney  
Superintendent of Schools  
Kearny Public Schools  
100 Davis Avenue  
Kearny, NJ 07032

October 3, 2000

Dear Mr. Mooney:

I am writing to you to commend Mr. John O'Hara, the teacher who created the concept of Corporation Learning in Kearny High School. He gave a fantastic presentation to my graduate class on September 20. The class is on "Principles of Curriculum Development", and Mr. O'Hara's ideas proved to be extremely useful, sparking deep reflection and a lively conversation afterwards. Many of the graduate students in the class have written their thoughts on that presentation in their journals. The ripple effect has already started. Here is an excerpt from one of those journals by an elementary school teacher which illustrates this:

"The presentation on Corporate Learning was very inspiring. John O'Hara saw that a change needed to be made in education, and he took that step we talked about in one of our first classes—the step necessary to follow our principles and change things. . . . "Relinquishing power," as Mr. O'Hara put it, is scary; but the results were obviously learning enhancing and beneficial to his students. Since that class session, I have been trying to find a way for CL to work in the elementary classroom. I also explained the concept to other teachers for ideas."

Universities are often criticized for their 'ivory tower' attitude. This criticism is often accurate. I realize how important it is for universities to create avenues for dialogue and a healthy exchange of ideas with public schools. Having professionals such as Mr. O'Hara in our class was a wonderful example of the benefits of such exchange. For that, I feel extremely grateful.

Sincerely,

Juan-Miguel Fernández-Balboa, Ed.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Curriculum & Teaching