

January 4, 2019

To whom it may concern,

RE: Letter of Support and Invitation for the following project:

“EDUC-ACTORS: FROM CONTEXT TO TEXT, RETHINKING PEACE, CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP IN HIGH EDUCATION, THROUGH THE ENCOUNTER WITH THE ARTS AS GENERATORS OF A CULTURE OF PEACE”

To whom it may concern,

The Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, UNESCO Chair in Genocide Prevention at Rutgers University have actively participated in the design, conceptualization and hosting of the global academic initiative Rethinking Peace Studies. This initiative was conceived as a trans-disciplinary and global research, education and community engagement project from 2014 to 2019, the project culminated in a published volume (February 2019).

In a dynamic think tank environment, Rethinking Peace sought to articulate, reflect and explore the wide range of challenges and opportunities in Peace Studies. CGHR’s visiting scholar, Daniel Fernández has joined me and other colleagues in the creation of an extension of the Rethinking Peace Studies initiative, Rethinking Peace Education.

As the Associate Director and Director of Education who works on issues related to peace, human rights and education for violence prevention, I welcome the contributions and research of our colleague and visiting scholar, Daniel Fernández. His innovative work and proposed project will contribute and enhance critical work of Peace Education. Daniel Fernández has developed a critical pedagogical initiative that connects in meaningful ways, the work of researchers and practitioners introducing a much needed exploration on non Western understandings of transformative practices and most importantly examines these pressing issues from the lens of the humanities and the arts. Daniel, deploys the most cutting edge, technologies, artistic practices and pedagogical insights while insisting on understanding the local context.

I give this initiative my highest recommendation and I extend an invitation to **Daniel Fernández and the Fundación Cultural de Paz**, to develop and deliver a pilot of his proposal in at least three classes on both our Newark and New Brunswick campuses. I look forward to working and supporting Daniel in this transformative pedagogical journey. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Nela Navarro

Associate Director, Director of Education and member of Executive Committee for UNESCO Chair in Genocide Prevention

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