



Office of the President

8/10/10

To Whom It May Concern:

This serves as my enthusiastic endorsement of S.L. Leonard & Associates. Sean Leonard and his team managed the entitlement, design and construction of our 65,000 sq. ft. Life Sciences, Research and Nursing Education Building. The \$43 million facility represents the largest single investment in South Los Angeles in 25 years and houses state of the art space for laboratories, clinical research and support functions for the College of Medicine, the College of Science and Health, and the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing. The building opened on time, under budget and to much acclaim from our supporters, staff and the surrounding community which we serve.

S.L. Leonard & Associates were the consummate professionals and partners, keeping us informed and involved at all times; there were no surprises. They successfully managed the project from soup to nuts and over time their senior level staff of Mike Iwuchukwu, Linda Mele, Randy Lawrence and Miriam Tasker all played key roles as we increased their scope to include a 467-car parking garage, a 1,200 sq. ft. café within our library, energy studies and an off-site HEADSTART kitchen.

The project was moving very slowly with flagging leadership until we brought S.L. Leonard & Associates on board to clean up the design, secure the debt financing and ensure entitlements. Sean leveraged his deep connections with the County Department of Building and Safety, Fire, County Regional Planning and the contracting community to bypass much red tape. With S.L. Leonard's track record and demonstrated integrity, knowledge, responsiveness and strategic thinking, our lenders, grantors and the National Institute of Health were confident in our ability to deliver.

There were several delicate community issues that could have been show stoppers, which Sean's team played a major role in resolving by way of community outreach, job fairs, contracting due diligence and open communications. Sean and Mike even voluntarily taught a construction class at a neighborhood youth center.

We enjoyed working with S.L. Leonard and I strongly recommend Sean & his team without hesitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Norris", written in a cursive style.

Keith Norris, MD, FACP
Interim President

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