



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

MUIRLANDS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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25 August 1989

David P. Gardner
Office of the President
300 Lakeside Dr., 22nd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear President Gardner,

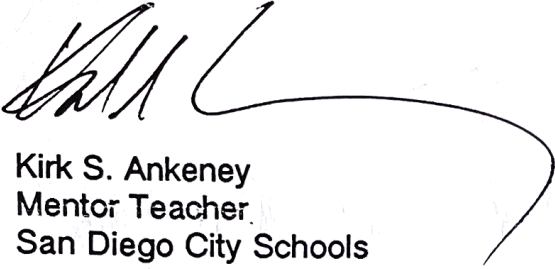
I am writing today to commend two members of the University of California faculty who have had a tremendous influence in my life. As a graduate of the University (UCSD, '80), and a proponent of the UC system, I am proud to know that people such as Walter Capps (UCSB) and Robert Ritchie (UCSD) are tenured members of the university family.

I have recently finished a six week seminar at Santa Barbara directed by Professor Capps. Under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars for School teachers, fifteen of my colleagues in education and I studied Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* under Dr. Capps. Walter's expert teaching manner, uncanny insight, intellectual prowess, and unusual empathy for the human condition--both in Tocqueville's day and in our own--made for a remarkable series of discussions and discoveries around the seminar table. Professor Capps worked tirelessly to make our time at UCSB a memorable collection of intellectual and emotional vistas in and out of the classroom. Though I have been fortunate to attend seminars of this nature at institutions such as Harvard, Penn, the University of Virginia, Wake Forest, and UCLA, I must say that this summer's experiences have been in many ways the most meaningful of all.

I also wanted to make mention of the long-standing support and encouragement I've enjoyed from Professor Robert Ritchie at UCSD. I've known Roy Ritchie for a decade now, for as an undergraduate I took his history courses and he later directed my honor's thesis. In the ten years that I've been away from the University, Roy has remained an inspiration to me in my own teaching (at the secondary level), and he has continuously supported my efforts at personal and professional growth. In 1987, I had the pleasure of working closely with him on the curriculum strand of the "Nation Building in the Americas" NEH project he directed to celebrate the bicentennial of the Constitution. Though his time these past two years has been particularly precious (working with Richard Atkinson in the chancellor's office), he has continued to make time to chat and to share views about ongoing events in our respective fields and life in general.

In the vast bureaucratic mass of the University of California, there are probably scores of unique individuals dedicated to their studies, their students, and their communities; for my part, I'm pleased to know two, well, and I believe the University of California is fortunate to count Walter Capps and Robert Ritchie among its legion.

Sincerely,



Kirk S. Ankeney
Mentor Teacher
San Diego City Schools

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DAVID PIERPONT GARDNER
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
300 Lakeside Drive
Oakland, California 94612-3550
(415) 987-9074

September 25, 1989

Mr. Kirk S. Ankeney
Mentor Teacher
San Diego City Schools
Muirlands Junior High School
1056 Nautilus Street
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Mr. Ankeney:

Before more time passes, let me thank you most warmly for your letter of August 25, 1989, concerning Professor Walter Capps of our Santa Barbara campus, and Professor Robert Ritchie of our San Diego campus. It was a pleasure to learn of their contributions to your professional development, and I appreciate your taking the time to write.

I am sure that both Professor Capps and Professor Ritchie would be delighted to know that they have enriched your educational experience. I have taken the liberty of sharing your letter with them and with the Chancellors of our Santa Barbara and San Diego campuses, for I am sure that they, too, will be pleased to know of the high regard you hold for these faculty members.

In appreciation of your writing, and with best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

/s/ David P. Gardner

David Pierpont Gardner

cc: Chancellor Uehling
Chancellor Atkinson
✓ Professor Capps
Professor Ritchie