April 1st, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of Vicki Holmes and The English Language Center at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In these difficult times of tight budgetary constraints and often painful decisions, there is one group whose interests are overlooked. That population is the immigrant community here in Las Vegas. Immigrants to Las Vegas thirst for the opportunity to acquire education, to learn English, and to become productive citizens of their new community.

The value of having a citizenry able to speak English should be clear to anyone, regardless of their political affiliation or viewpoint. For this reason, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas has a compelling interest in offering access to English-language education.

The English Language Center at UNLV is one of the few resources in Southern Nevada where individuals have the opportunity to learn English. Shuttering this program would have a devastating impact in terms of eliminating access to the first stages of a university experience. This is because courses at the English Language Center often serve as “stepping stones” to further academic advancement at the university.

English serves as both the “key” and the “door” to higher education. Don’t throw away the key. Don’t close the doors of The English Language Center at UNLV.

Respectfully,

Michael Young, J.D.