

Collaborative Educational Programs for the Americas
Leadership Conference
Innovation through Leadership
San Antonio, Texas, October 22-24, 2015
Executive Summary ~ Part II

“CEPA Conference Days,” was a time to reflect and remember, “As the times are new, so we must think anew.” This is just as true today as when Abraham Lincoln wrote it over a century ago. Where will our next generation of leaders come from? Will they be prepared to deal with international challenges? Preparing visionary leaders is key in this era of globalization. Visionary thinkers gathered for CEPA 2015 to share your creative ideas and strategies to concentrate on this year’s conference theme, *Innovation through Leadership*.

Who made it happen?



If CEPA 2015 were a football game, then Dr. Michael J. Laney was the playmaker. Dr. Laney is the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Our Lady of the Lake University and served as the lead co-director of the conference. Highly recognized and respected by everyone, he served as the key liaison to the Office of the Mayor in San Antonio; founded and designed the Undergraduate Leadership Forum; and worked closely with his fellow Deans from the University of the Incarnate Word and Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Knowing outstanding talent from the major

universities in the greater San Antonio area, he worked in partnership to involve their distinguished scholars and top-level representatives



Dr. Laney, along with his President, Dr. Diane Melby; Dr. Jeannie Scott at UIW; Dr. Aaron Tyler at St. Mary’s; Dr. Eric Lopez at TAMUSA; and Dr. Jude Valdez at UTSA, welcomed the delegates and the Honorable Ivy R. Taylor, Mayor of San Antonio. An ordained minister, Dr. Laney also delivered the invocation.



Students first

One of Dr. Laney's greatest strengths is that he is student-focused. During the Undergraduate Leadership Forum, he spoke of leadership and what ethical leadership looks like. He talked about how innovation challenges assumptions and how it pushes back against traditions and customs. "Leadership and moral courage are needed because innovation is a risky, dangerous, and often a high stakes business," he stated.



Concomitantly, he coached and inspired doctoral students to become their own leaders—not simply to follow, but to ask questions, challenge authority, defy orthodoxy, and lead lives of integrity. These future leaders were mentored in the design and development of their vision for bringing about change. Dr. Laney, along with other established scholars, encouraged young thinkers to become focused and passionate in their professional development. Vision is not seeing things as they are, but as they will be.



Working in partnership

CEPA 2015 was a success because it was a team effort. Leaders from Texas A&M University-San Antonio and the H-E-B School of Business and Administration at the University of the Incarnate Word, also served as co-directors. They were:



Dr. Forrest Aven, Jr., is the Dean of the H-E-B School of Business and Administration at the University of the Incarnate Word and served as co-director for CEPA 2014, and 2015. He was one of the founders of the Undergraduate Student Leadership Forum and has sent a delegation of honor students to CEPA 2014 and 2015. He also led student discussions, focusing on the qualities and skills needed for a strong foundation of leadership. He

believes in the need to develop a relentless drive to improve education and he coached future leaders to cultivate a deep sense of integrity and inner strength if they want to lead. He encouraged these students to take advantage of every opportunity to nurture leadership.





Dr. Jeannie Scott is the Associate Dean of the H-E-B School of Business and Administration at the University of the Incarnate Word. She also served as co-director for CEPA 2015 and is a founder for the Undergraduate Leadership Forum at CEPA 2014 and 2015. During her round table discussions with students she stated that “the only constant is change and that communication is the key to ensuring innovation.”



Dr. Eric Lopez is Dean of the College of Education and Human Performance at A&M University-San Antonio and co-director for CEPA 2015. Representing his university, he welcomed the delegates and the mayor to the conference. He also served on the Panel of Leaders and referred to innovation through leadership as creating equitable opportunities and setting challenging, yet realistic expectations. He also talked about the support necessary to empower team members to achieve success.



Dr. Theresa Garfield Dorel is Assistant Professor of Special Education at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Dr. Dorel, worked closely with her colleagues and was a major contributor at the conferences during the past two years. One of her main contributions to CEPA 2015 was serving as one-of-three team leaders to direct the discussion during the Undergraduate Leadership Forum. “She showed her passion for education and for students to grow,” stated one of the undergraduates. “This experience will help me gain a strong foundation of leadership,” stated another student.



The tough jobs

They say when one needs someone to handle the toughest, most challenging jobs, you need a blue-chipper. Dr. Dorel served in that capacity as she moderated the Panel of Leaders, as well. A talented educator and scholar she has an insatiable desire to learn and educate others to the critical leadership issues that future leaders will encounter. She, along with her graduate student, Catherine Carreon, prepared a very informative script for the panelists, and orchestrated a dynamic discussion with tough, thought-provoking questions and analysis of the topics discussed.

*Dr. Theresa Garfield-Dorel & Catherine Carreon
College of Education and Human Performance
Texas A&M University-San Antonio*



Inspirational leadership



Cristal Lopez is Coordinator, McNair Scholars Program at Our Lady of the Lake University. This young thinker provided the leadership to bring undergraduate, honor students together to engage their brains in extra leadership opportunities and to augment it with their formal academic program. "Use this win-win opportunity to discover your individual interests," she said as she huddled with the honor students. As an academic coach, she is inspiring a new generation of leaders so

that they will “not only do today’s important work but also invent tomorrow’s.” When most college graduates can’t find jobs or are under-employed, she is positioning future leaders with track records that will place them in the top, challenging posts.



Dr. Matari Jones-Gunter, Our Lady of the Lake University, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. A former news reporter for News 4 WOAI-TV, San Antonio’s NBC affiliate, she brilliantly engaged the delegates with her presence and, combined with her self-confidence, she captured the audience’s attention from the onset. She described CEPA’s vision in a manner that took vision to action and made the delegates connect to that vision. She set the stage for what proved to be an exciting and memorable event. As a result, a high number of delegates have committed to returning for CEPA 2016.



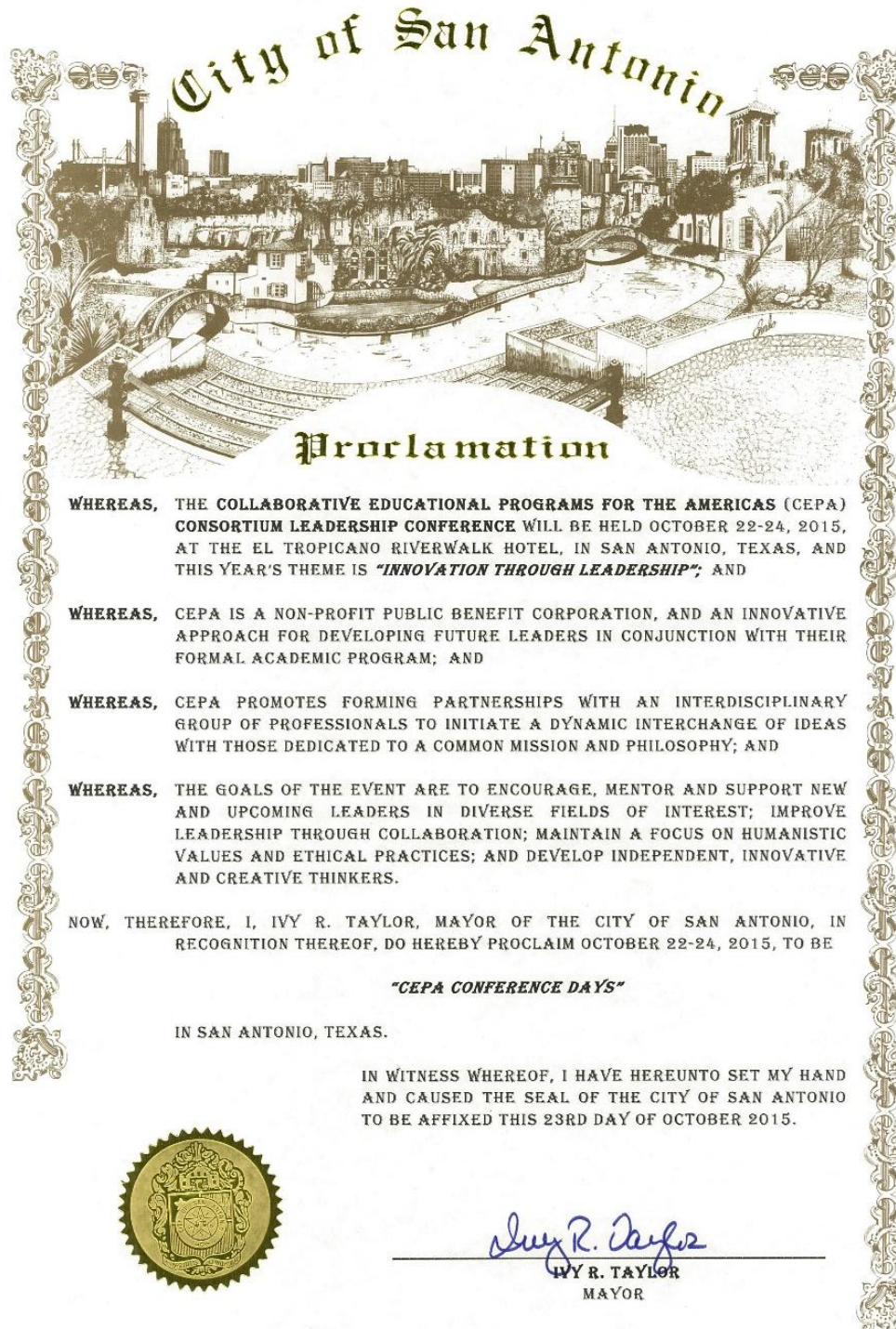
Vision

Collaborative Educational Programs for the Americas (CEPA) is an innovative approach for developing future leaders. During the past two decades, CEPA has hosted leadership conferences nationally and internationally. CEPA 2015 continues to be proof that there are futuristic thinkers, as depicted above, who understand CEPA’s vision, and are an inspiration and a focal point for positive humanistic change that is so needed right now.

This was the fifth year hosting CEPA conferences in Texas, the last three of which have been held in San Antonio. The long list of thinkers that graced the conferences is impressive. CEPA welcomes one and all willing to initiate a dynamic interchange of ideas with others dedicated to a common mission and philosophy.

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CEPA Days



City of San Antonio

Proclamation

WHEREAS, THE COLLABORATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE AMERICAS (CEPA) CONSORTIUM LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 22-24, 2015, AT THE EL TROPICANO RIVERWALK HOTEL, IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND THIS YEAR'S THEME IS *"INNOVATION THROUGH LEADERSHIP"*; AND

WHEREAS, CEPA IS A NON-PROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION, AND AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THEIR FORMAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM; AND

WHEREAS, CEPA PROMOTES FORMING PARTNERSHIPS WITH AN INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS TO INITIATE A DYNAMIC INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS WITH THOSE DEDICATED TO A COMMON MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY; AND

WHEREAS, THE GOALS OF THE EVENT ARE TO ENCOURAGE, MENTOR AND SUPPORT NEW AND UPCOMING LEADERS IN DIVERSE FIELDS OF INTEREST; IMPROVE LEADERSHIP THROUGH COLLABORATION; MAINTAIN A FOCUS ON HUMANISTIC VALUES AND ETHICAL PRACTICES; AND DEVELOP INDEPENDENT, INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE THINKERS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, IVY R. TAYLOR, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, IN RECOGNITION THEREOF, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 22-24, 2015, TO BE

"CEPA CONFERENCE DAYS"

IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TO BE AFFIXED THIS 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2015.



Ivy R. Taylor
IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR