



The National Faculty

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Dear Ike:

What can I say! You really wowed them in Tucson. Of course, this doesn't surprise me given the tremendous amount of time, intelligence and personal investment, not to mention chutzpah, you sunk into this visit. You did a stellar job and the teachers loved it.

In reading your report, I was especially pleased to see that one of your "assumptions" in working with these teachers was that you would present yourself as an object of study, in the sense that the forces and cultural tensions over against which your own identity was shaped were the paradigmatic starting places for an investigation of cultural conflict and contact.

A less awkward way of saying this is your self-example, Chicana, Ph.d, comparative religionist, storyteller, etc. showed the teachers how to begin cultural inquiry, start with yourself and those around you, namely, the students. What you did so well was to pinpoint intellectual issues which are typically conceived of in an abstract fashion as "out there" and locate them concretely in your own, and by implication, their own personal formation. Then the histories, anthropologies and comparative religions which scholars worry over, truly have a home in the teachers' and students' imaginations. This is part of what I took your ambitious two-day visit to be about and if you had stopped there you would have already surpassed my best hopes for the visit.

The teachers' comments on your visit were uniformly excellent, a few of them indicated that they had trouble at points in following the direction you were going and the connections you were

THE NATIONAL FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Dr. Irene Vásquez

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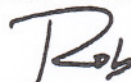
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making, but this is always the case in a group this size and with such varied disciplinary backgrounds.

Enclosed you will find a check covering your expenses and a stipend. I would be glad to write a letter to your Chair, describing your participation in our National Urban Schools Program and enclose a few NF brochures, unfortunately I can not forward him the evaluations of your visit which are in-house documents. I will tell him though how well you were received and quote some of the glowing remarks the teachers made about your work with them.

I want to thank you for such a terrific job and the herculean effort you put in this visit. I look forward to the opportunity when we can call on you again.

Best Wishes,

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

Robert J. Baird
Executive Associate

Enclosure