



UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS

Office of the President

November 20, 2009

Mr. Ted Wills
Co-Founder & President
North American Educational Initiatives Foundation, Inc.
15506 Liberty Pine Lane
Houston, Texas 77049

Re: Thomas R. Mendez

Dear Mr. Wills:

Thomas Mendez is an outstanding young man who richly deserves to be considered for the North American Educational Initiatives Foundation's Dr. Robert Jackson Award. I am well acquainted with Thomas as he was a vibrant part of the University of St. Thomas community.

The University of St. Thomas takes great pride in educating well rounded young men who are committed to their faith. An accomplished student, Thomas showed great commitment to his degree plan of international studies by serving as a co-founder for the UST Micro-Credit program. The program, a student operated program dedicated to assisting entrepreneurs who live below the poverty threshold to start income generating businesses, continues to receive recognition. In May, 2009, Thomas showed the depths of his faith as he spoke about his meritor and friend, the late Dr. Gustavo Wensjoe, at our university's commencement. Thomas' leadership among his peers was evident during this tragic event for our community.

Thomas' accomplishments in his studies coupled with his humanitarian spirit make him a particularly desirable candidate for the Jackson Award. His achievements throughout his academic life, particularly his commitment to those less fortunate, will allow him to excel at anything he chooses.

I give Thomas Mendez my strong recommendation as a candidate for the Jackson Award. I believe Thomas will be a leader of faith and character in our community and beyond.

With best wishes,

Robert Ivany
President

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