

Dear Madam Secretary,

I know you are dealing with many important issues. I regret that deteriorating circumstances regarding the ¡Desarrollando Carácter! initiative require me to respectfully request a meeting on Friday, April 27 with you and/or other officials of the Puerto Rico Department of Education authorized to address the issues of our expiring contract and the questions that have resulted in withholding of payments to JI for services rendered.

As you know, our contract expires on May 31, 2018 and I will be coming to Puerto Rico this week to address a scheduled meeting of all the Master Trainers and coordinators retained by the Josephson Institute to deliver the ¡Desarrollando Carácter! program on Saturday, April 28. The intended purpose of the meeting is to plan and prepare for aggressive continuation of the program in the 2018-2019 year and to congratulate these hard-working men and women for the excellent work they have done (and are *still* doing) to bring your vision to reality.

Rumors that the program may not be extended have been gaining momentum and, as the Institute is founded on core ethical principles, we have an obligation of candor to these dedicated professionals who accepted their positions with the expectation that the contract would be extended. If I cannot reliably promise continuation of the program, I have a moral duty to inform them at this meeting so they can make other plans. Under the circumstances, it is most urgent that the PRDOE inform us whether, and if so, under what conditions the Institute will be commissioned to complete implementation of ¡Desarrollando Carácter!

We will, of course, assure that they continue to perform their duties until the end of the contract.

I want to reassure you of my total belief and commitment to ¡Desarrollando Carácter! and my dedication to find a way to resolve our issues concerning extension as well as payment for the services already rendered. I hope you agree to a meeting and that sufficient time can be allocated to assure that we reach a final and formal resolution of the future of this very important program.

If this meeting is not possible or desirable, I am open to other suggestions.

Michael Josephson President Joseph & Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics CHARACTER COUNTS! and ¡Desarrollando Carácter! 310 846-4800 msj@jiethics.org