

18 March 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to strongly endorse the work of the Federación Mexicana de Filosofía para Niños. I am a Professor of Educational Foundations and Director of the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC) at Montclair State University, where the contemporary movement of “Philosophy for Children” began, under the leadership of Matthew Lipman and Ann Margaret Sharp. I succeeded Lipman as IAPC Director on his retirement in 2001, but I first met both Lipman and Sharp at the Universidad Iberoamericana, where I received my PhD in 1997. That is where I also first became acquainted with the work of the Federación (founded in 1993, the year I began my doctoral studies in Mexico City) and I have been following its work since then. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to return to Mexico a number of times to participate in academic colloquia, conferences, and workshops sponsored and supported by the Federación, including the following:

- January 2020 Taller Conferencia Internacional de Filosofía para Niños, Latin American Center of Philosophy for Children, San Cristóbal de las Casas.
- June 2018 Conference of the North American Association for Community of Inquiry, Puebla.
- November 2007 Coloquio Nacional de Filosofía para Niños under the auspices of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Federación Mexicana de Filosofía para Niños, Acapulco de Juárez.
- January 2006 IX Taller Conferencia Internacional de Filosofía para Niños, Latin American Center of Philosophy for Children, San Cristóbal de las Casas.
- July 2005 XII International Conference of the International Council for Philosophical Inquiry with Children, Mexico City.
- July 2004 Conference of The North American Association for Community of Inquiry, San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas.
- January 2004 VII Taller Conferencia Internacional de Filosofía para Niños, Latin American Center of Philosophy for Children, San Cristóbal de las Casas.

In addition to participating in these important academic events, I have worked closely with a number of colleagues who are members of the Federación in arranging for the translation and cultural adaptation of philosophical curriculum materials for children written by Lipman and Sharp, obtaining copies of original philosophical curriculum produced in Mexico for the Philosophy for Children Special Collection at my university’s Sprague Library, and consulting on research projects. Last year I traveled to San Cristóbal de las Casas, where I conducted important oral history interviews with long-

time Federación members, as part of my own research into the history of the Philosophy for Children movement.

I have also had the pleasure of inviting numerous Federación members to the Institute at Montclair as visiting scholars (including Fulbright scholars), visiting professors, and research consultants.

I am tremendously impressed with the work of the Federación Mexicana de Filosofía para Niños, as were my late colleagues Lipman and Sharp before me. The Federación has produced philosophical curriculum materials, teacher education programs, and programs of philosophizing with children of the highest quality. I understand that there is a proposal to include Philosophy for Children as part of basic public education in Mexico. I wish to state that the Federación Mexicana de Filosofía para Niños is recognized by the Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children as the principal Philosophy for Children organization in Mexico, and the one that has developed and upheld the kind of standards for developing and implementing materials and methods in this field that are necessary to fulfill such an important educational proposal. I strongly support that proposal and pledge to the Federación the support of my Institute, as well as any personal assistance I can offer.

Cordially.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Maughn Rollins Gregory
Professor of Educational Foundations
Director, IAPC