

December 21, 2016

Dr. Beverly McClure
President
Adams State University
208 Edgemont Boulevard Suite 2180

Dear President McClure,

You are aware that Rezolana Institute signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Adams State to conduct a hemp research project via Community Partnerships. Initially, this turn-key hemp operation was established between Rezolana Institute and our collaborative partner Fibershed, a non-profit endeavor under the leadership of Rebecca Burgess. Since 2013, Rebecca has worked with the residents San Luis to introduce hemp production for fiber. Fibershed planted a small first plot with Costilla County via private funding. At the end of the first harvest the project was not renewed and Rezolana Institute became a local partner with Fibershed cultivating a one-acre plot in 2015 and 2016.

Rezolana Institute has gained first-hand knowledge about farming hemp under the constraints of climate change with the use of carbon-neutral farming techniques. Rebecca Burgess is an excellent partner who secured grants to meet the Colorado Department of Agriculture requirements for permitting, paid for importing seed from France, and aggressively advocated for Adams State to become a state-approved to undertake hemp research. (Previously only CU and CSU were initially involved in hemp research, which promises a financial boom for universities.) Rebecca underwrote hemp signage and labor to plow and fertilize fields. Arnold made a presentation to university students and worked on a summer workshop co-sponsored by Rezolana Institute, Fibershed, and Community Partnership. Arnie lectured, provided a hands-on experience for making adobe hemp blocks, and arranging of the tour.

I'm not sure why ASU via Community Partnerships excluded Rezolana Institute and Fibershed from meaningful involvement in the university-sponsored Hemp Symposium held October 2016? No email or calls or communication to attend planning meetings, no request to be on a panel or to make a presentation, and no invitation to set-up an exhibit. Instead, we learned of the symposium in the newspaper.

Participation in a panel would have been a wonderful opportunity for Arnie who could have given a scholarly presentation about his experiences with growing hemp at high elevation using *acequia* irrigation techniques, sharing his large archive of hemp photos, or showcasing his experimentation with integrating hemp fibers into adobe. We recognize a valuable opportunity was lost for us to meet hemp advocates/resources from the region and state to talk shop, share ideas, and make contacts.

The absence of a local project initiated by multi-generation Hispano alumni in a historic community in the universities sphere-of-influence defeats the purpose of a Hispanic Serving Institute. It would be beneficial if the university deeply reflected on what occurred, as exclusion benefits no one.

Sincerely

Dr. Maria Mondragon-Valdez