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November 3, 2010

To the Members of the CSU System Board of Governors,

I am honored to write to you today as the Lieutenant Governor-elect of the State of Colorado and hereby tend my resignation as President of Colorado State University-Pueblo, effective immediately. I will proudly join Governor-elect John Hickenlooper in his efforts to address the many challenges facing our state, which includes securing and increasing funding for our state's system of higher education.

Not a day has gone by since I took leave of absence as President on September 15 that I haven't thought about CSU-Pueblo, the progress we have made, and the unfinished work that lies ahead. While I will not play a direct role in moving the University forward toward its remaining goals, I vow to continue to support the institution and the people who have supported me in so many ways, although I will do so in a different role.

My recent time away from campus has given me ample time to reflect on the unprecedented progress our faculty, staff, and students have made at a most surprising time, given the economic environment. While the most apparent and recognized achievements have been increased student enrollment and retention and the construction or renovation of many of our physical facilities, we also have expanded support for faculty research and teaching, added academic programs to match workforce needs, and garnered several large scholarship gifts. We have played a leading role in shaping the educational environment within Colorado -- by completing articulation agreements for all of our academic majors with all 15 community colleges; by being the first institution to create our own iPhone "app" and house a major solar array, and by being named the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' "Outstanding Member Institution. "

CSU-Pueblo has historically played a key role in serving first generation, low income, and sometimes academically underprepared students and must continue to do so. Access must always be a significant factor even as we seek to improve the academic environment and the University's contributions to research and scholarly discovery. We must invest in higher education in Colorado if we want our future generations to have a realistic opportunity to improve their lives and the economic, cultural, and political environment of our state.

I applaud the leadership and vision both of Chair Pat McConathy and Chancellor Joe Blake as well as the enthusiasm, patience, and strategic guidance of board members -- a dynamic combination that has brought tremendous results. I extend special thanks to President Tony Frank for so capably taking the reins in my absence over the last two months.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead such an outstanding institution. Together, we have been part of an amazing transformation as CSU-Pueblo moves ever closer to its full potential. I will be forever grateful for your support of our efforts and for your confidence in me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial letter.

Joseph A. Garcia