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15 April 2014

Yiu Kun Man
Centre for Sign Linguistics & Deaf Studies
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Shatin, New Territories
Hong Kong

Dear Chris:

This letter is being written to extend my support to the innovative work you are doing at the Jockey Club Sign Bilingualism and Co-Enrollment and Deaf Education Programme (JC-SLCO). After hearing many positive things about the program over the years, I was fortunate enough to visit the program last month and meet the wonderful staff, parents, and students involved. That visit made it even more clear to me the powerful impact of your work on improving the social and educational opportunities for young deaf and hard-of-hearing children in Hong Kong. For this reason, I'm pleased to offer this letter of support.

As you know very well, deaf and hard-of-hearing children throughout the world continue to suffer from misguided pedagogical policies that do not fully support the learning needs of this unique population. The limited success of many deaf education programs can be attributed to low expectations of the school administration, poor communication skills of the instructors, and limited understanding of the parents about their children's potential. As a deaf person, it breaks my heart every time I visit such programs. To my delight, I saw none of that when I visited your program. There is no question in my mind that the program must continue.

All the best to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. K. Holcomb".

Thomas K. Holcomb, Ph.D.
Professor/Interim Dean