



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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May 17, 2023

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Re: Admission of [REDACTED] to UTSA under the CAP

Dear University of Texas leaders:

I write to inform you of a special case student that I request you make every effort necessary to allow her to accept UT's offer of admission under the CAP, and to permit her to attend UTSA this fall, irrespective of a very recent deadline. To do so would honor your mission to ensure underserved minorities have access to the same education as those from wealthy and elite educated families. Based on her circumstances, to deny her the offered admission by eliminating her based on a technicality would be completely contrary to that proclaimed mission.

A significant aspect of my position as the Agriculture Commissioner for the State of Texas is to take action and design programs to provide for underserved and minority communities throughout the state to ensure they receive basic services such as medical treatment and school lunches, as examples. Ms. [REDACTED] is such a person. She is bi-racial Latina, and she is only the second in her family after her mother (a UT Grad) to have a chance at a college education. Her father retreated to Argentina 10 years ago and she has been raised in Austin with her brother by her mother alone. Her father did not complete high school. Only 2 of her grandparents made it to high school. Before that, her great-grandparents did not make it past second grade, as here in Texas and in Alabama and

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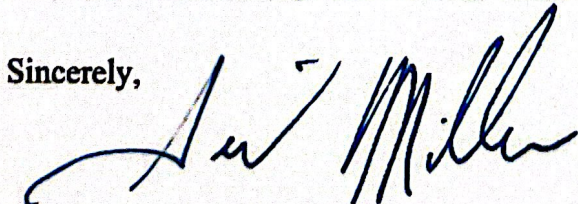
Argentina, they were picking cotton, performing adult jobs and cleaning people's houses in exchange for milk, butter, and supplies to be taken back to their families. Ms. [REDACTED]'s mother, as the lone college graduate, seeks a better future for her daughter. A UT education for someone like Ms. [REDACTED] is life changing. She and her mother were elated to learn of the unexpected conditional acceptance and devastated to learn they found out mere days too late, and that the schools would not budge in considering her.

If Ms. [REDACTED] were surrounded by family, educators, and advisors like most other people have, it is likely she would not have missed her acceptance. In this situation, it is really just a 17-year-old who works almost full time, with a little help from her extremely busy self-employed mother to apply. As this is not a typical college educated family, they were not aware of the ins and outs of the system, or that an admissions decision could only be found by affirmatively searching for it through an online admissions portal. They reasonably thought a letter would arrive to the home. This is a concerning practice considering not everyone has internet access. Ms. [REDACTED] does not have a computer and these efforts would have had to be taken at her high school, which ended up bungling most of her applications, making the UT offer all the more critical. Unfortunately, it is students like Ms. [REDACTED] that fall through the cracks and often end up receiving the least support. But you can change that.

Ms. [REDACTED] was told she can still enter the CAP, but only at Tyler. Ms. [REDACTED] has compelling reasons to stay closer to home in San Antonio. First, Ms. [REDACTED] has [REDACTED] That is how I came to know her mother, who since 2015 has advocated for legal natural treatments for this devastating condition. The absence of a father or any other family members has contributed to a couple of other conditions that merit her mother being only 1.5 hours away rather than 4.5 hours. Her teachers at Westlake all believe she would be better served starting a school nearby, and the ability to return home to Austin in her second year is essential to the long term calculus for her care. Secondly, Ms. [REDACTED] aspires to study art and psychology; the merger of UTSA with Southwest College of Art additionally makes this campus the ideal one for her. Tyler is a fine school, but it is not the ideal place for her, while UTSA conveniently is.

[REDACTED] is exactly the sort of student UT and UTSA should make every effort to include rather than exclude. I understand you may consider your class "full," but one more who is exceptionally deserving can't hurt. Any consideration and accommodations that can be made for her admission through UTSA under the CAP would be greatly appreciated. I am respectfully writing this letter with the full weight of my office – that is how important this special case is, and I urge you to reconsider your position on her.

Sincerely,



Sid Miller
Commissioner