

May 1, 2017

President Soraya M. Coley
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
3801 W. Temple Avenue
Pomona, CA 91768

Dear President Coley,

My name is Dr. Mario Guerrero and I sit on a committee that is advocating the financing and construction of the George Washington Presidential Library and Museum. Cal Poly Pomona is a leading example of innovation and education in the Greater Los Angeles area. Dedicating a presidential center in our current library would make us one of the most prominent and elite campuses in Southern California. Furthermore, George Washington deserves special recognition in a special presidential center because of his cemented status as one of the greatest presidential administrations in American history.

One of the primary reasons the students of Cal Poly Pomona would benefit from having a George Washington Presidential Library and Museum is that his brilliant example of leadership can guide students to better futures. Scholars have assessed Washington's administration and have praised him as a man of great character and stature.

The Framers of the Constitution set up the executive branch of government to be distinctly different than that of a monarch. However, President Washington resisted the temptations of the office in order to establish a legacy that future presidents would carry. Even though there were no term limits instituted on the office, President Washington established a tradition for presidents to serve two terms; a precedent that was only broken by another great president, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Washington helped to establish and maintain the decisive nature of the branch, which has been an effect felt by every single president since.

In terms of his relationship with Congress, George Washington took measured steps in order to allow the federal government to grow and realize the extent of its responsibilities. Although the Constitution was vague in regard to the president's relationship with Congress, President Washington chose to carefully allow Congress to exercise power in their own right. Washington chose not to specifically deliberate on bills on the floor of Congress, a trend that still continues today. And, in addition, Washington only exercised the veto in times of great need and careful consideration.

Finally, even in colonial times, George Washington took great pains in order to communicate and establish a relationship with the citizens of the early United States. He took two national tours of the country, to survey early America, but also to communicate to the people that the nation was prosperous and on a righteous path. This ability to foresee the objectives of the office and to appeal to the American public resonates with the modern presidency. In this regard, President Washington was truly before his time.

In sum, although I have only barely begun to scratch the surface in regard to why President Washington is an ideal candidate for a Cal Poly Pomona Presidential Library and Museum, it is evident that he indeed displays the characteristics and record of a great president. Students at Cal Poly Pomona will be able to learn from this great deal of leadership. Hopefully, one day, one of our students, who in a 'learn by doing' moment, will follow his example and become a future president of the United States.

I hope you consider President Washington in earnest as a strong candidate for this library.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mario Guerrero
Committee Member