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December 1, 1927.

The Carnegie Corporation,  
550 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

Geographically, the Island of Porto Rico lies midway between North and South America, and its people are in particular need of greater contact with Anglo-Saxon ideals and modes of life. Although they are citizens of the United States and aspire to assimilation as such, they have not had a full opportunity to break away from the customs and habits formed by four hundred years of Spanish rule. Their great need is a chance through education to raise themselves to a status to which they, as American citizens, are entitled but which they cannot achieve without outside help.

The economic condition of the Porto Ricans must be recognized and taken into consideration. All mercantile business is in the hands of Spaniards. The sugar and tobacco industries are owned by foreign corporations, principally American, which have driven the native farmer off the rich level land into the rocky hills. The great majority of the 1,500,000 people are laborers, living in shacks on a margin of subsistence. These laborers receive an average daily wage of \$1.04 for barely six months during the year, and the remainder of the time cannot find employment. The middle class is made up of employees of the Government and business corporations operating in the Island. While there are a number of well-to-do Porto Ricans, probably not more than five would be considered wealthy.

This economic condition makes it impossible for us to expect any substantial contributions to the financial support of the Institute from Porto Ricans. Since the American corporations in sugar and other industries are desirous of maintaining cheap and abundant labor, they will not give for the education of the common people of Porto Rico. This has been amply proved to the officers of our Institute.

We are so far removed from Continental America that a large number of private contributions from the States is difficult if not impossible to secure, now that campaigns are so thoroughly organized for worthy causes nearer home in which causes men of means are intensely interested. This makes it very difficult for them to consider gifts to our Institute.

The Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico has an enrollment of 397, of which number 149 are in college and 248 are in high school. There are 223 boys and 174 girls. In addition to the class-room work, the students carry on an extensive industrial program. (See Exhibit A).

With the limited means at our disposal we are doing the best we can, but we are not able to offer the kind of instruction which will fit the students to meet the competition of modern life. In spite of the fact that our means are so limited, our work has attained a degree of success and is appreciated by the leading citizens of the Island, as evidenced by Exhibit B. The efficient service rendered, even under difficulties, is attested both by the leading men of Porto Rico in their answers to this questionnaire, and also by the large number of youth who apply for its culture but who cannot be accepted because of our lack of adequate resources.

The annual budget for salaries and current expenses for 1928 is \$66,668, for which the total available income from tuitions and endowment is now but \$43,420. To continue the work now going on we need an income of \$23,000. in excess of what we have. To develop completely the industrial program, now in operation but without qualified instructors, there is needed in excess of present income the sum of \$89,980., or a total endowment of \$1,750,000. in addition to the present \$251,000. endowment of the school. This amount starts no new work. It only means the proper manning of work now in operation. This additional amount will be used as follows:

Heads of Industrial Departments.....	\$32,900.
Teachers' Salaries.....	14,060.
Maintenance.....	13,000.
200 Scholarships.....	30,000.
	<u>\$89,980.</u>

Meanwhile, our Institute is striking at the very roots of the social, industrial and intellectual problems of Latin America. The solution of these problems must be found and realized by the people themselves before they can establish a democratic form of government in their own republics.

We are laying the foundation of character in our students who will, when the day comes, have the vision and strength to establish the great principles that make a nation independently safe and sound to the very center.

A rapidly increasing number of students and people should become bi-lingual and we are contributing very largely to this essential part of Americanization. We are developing a knowledge of English language and literature equal to that of students in corresponding high schools and colleges in the United States. Their attainment in Spanish language and literature is far superior to that found anywhere in the United States. We are thus fitting them to become the key that will open to the Saxon of the North and the Latin of the South the door of right understanding which will bring to the Republics of the Western Hemisphere a harmonious and peaceful cooperation for the advancement and development of all, and to the detriment of none.

The chief importance of our Institute is that of a pioneer educational institution for all Latin America, as well as for Porto Rico. We have successfully linked up with the usual college work and a wholesome religious training, an industrial program that is fitting the youth for leadership in these most backward Republics of Latin America. Our students are now taking their places of responsibility and influence in the Republics of Santo Domingo, Hayti, Colombia and Venezuela, as well as in Porto Rico.

We do not claim to be, nor aspire to become, the Pan-American University. We do, however, want to be able to increase our present number of English-speaking youth from North America and our Spanish-speaking youth from South America, who are applying for admission, by a large number of select students from all the American Republics. The far-reaching influence of such a close international fellowship will become a powerful factor in the development and unity of the Western Hemisphere.

That our work may be perpetuated as a modern educational institution of American ideals and methods, which will serve as a model college for the Latin American Republics, we are seeking to raise our present endowment of \$251,000. to \$2,000,000. Application is hereby made to the Carnegie Corporation for \$1,000,000. of the sum needed for endowment.

In order to help us to prosecute our going work untrammelled, and to enable us to secure from other sources the sum of \$750,000. for endowment, we would beg of you to make the first payment of \$500,000. without restriction. The income from this amount will take care of the demands of our present budget for 1928.

This, with the \$750,000. which we shall endeavor to secure at the earliest possible date, will give us a total endowment of \$2,000,000. a sufficient amount to carry on the work of a model college as an expression of the good wishes and high hopes of the Continental American citizens for the Porto Rican American citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Harris, President.

Roswell Miller, Jr., Treasurer