

# Testimony from a student who is a principal

## St. Joseph Mission School

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Feasts of St. Aidan

Mr. Timothy Snyder, Ph.D.  
President  
Loyola Marymount University  
1 LMU Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Mr. Snyder,

I would like to personally thank you and Loyola Marymount University with Catholic Extension Society for the opportunity to receive a Certificate in Catholic School Administration from Loyola Marymount University. Your investing in my role as leader of a Catholic School will help me bring hope to a school and community that faces many challenges with poverty, addictions, and violence.

When I first arrived at Loyola to begin my course work, I was pretty much burnt out with my position as a school Principal. I was overwhelmed with low enrollment, small budgets, pending accreditation, and apathy from most school stakeholders. I wasn't sure if the LMU Certification program would be helpful to my situation especially with a school that was on the verge of closing.

Then I met Dr. Tony Sabatino, Dr. Dean Martin, Sr. Maria Lai, CSJ, Rob Anderson of Catholic Extension and the National Cohort. From day one I encountered hope. It began with their hospitality to welcome us with enthusiasm to share their love of God and Jesus in the Jesuit Tradition.

Specifically, we began by what Dr. Sabatino calls, "drilling down" in spiritual and academic reflection. What was key to this whole experience was to put everything through the lenses of Christ in prayer, self-reflection, and action.

Throughout the year, as I grew in wisdom and confidence in my role as a Catholic school Principal so did the staff and students. As we begin a new year, our school is stronger than ever because of the vision Catholic Extension and Loyola had in helping me and others grow in our Catholic Identity.

Though our course work is done as a class, we are still communicating through a blog page to collaborate what began a year ago at LMU. The networking that has been established among ourselves is invaluable and we use it as a way to build the mission of Jesus in our homes and our schools.

Again, thank you and Loyola Marymount University. Your mission to encourage learning, educate the whole person, and to be of service and justice has definitely changed my life, the life of our school, and the Diocese I serve.

Your truly,

  
Antonio Trujillo  
Principal

cc:

Bishop James Wall, Diocese of Gallup  
Superintendent Jeanette Suter, Diocese of Gallup  
Dr. Shane Martin, Ph.D  
Dr. Anthony Sabatino, Ph.D  
Sr. Maria Lai, CSJ