



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

May 13, 2021

Dr. Nickolas Castro
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
850 W. Dickson Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Dear Dr. Castro:

Congratulations on being named a 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholar's most influential teacher. Scholars have been naming a most influential teacher since 1983. You are joining a unique group of more than 5,000 teachers selected by their own students.

During the application process, candidates are asked to select a teacher or instructor who has influenced them most significantly during their lifelong learning journeys. This year, U.S. Presidential Scholar Alison Sue-Jeanne Jang chose you as that teacher.

President Joe Biden has said to educators, "You are the most important profession in the United States." Exceptional teachers such as you have the power to impact and shape leaders of the future. Teachers who have an impact on children have the power to change lives; not just for those children themselves but all walks of life.

Thank you for your commitment and investment in our students. You are a vital piece in shaping students to be successful.

Best wishes and congratulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Miguel A. Cardona".

Miguel A. Cardona, Ed.D.