



Q&A
with
Victoria P.
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President of Ayala
Foundation, Inc.

How does CENTEX retain its competitive edge over other public elementary schools in both the curricular and co-curricular aspects?

We have focused heavily on teachers' training while maintaining a cutting-edge curriculum. The training of teachers is supplemented with the presence of master teachers whom we call Curriculum Research Teachers (CRTs). CRTs observe in the classrooms in different content areas and evaluate the teaching strategies. The philosophy of CENTEX is to facilitate learning, not to impose it. Therefore, observations are done to ensure that the teaching strategies meet the learning styles of CENTEX scholars. This is a strategy necessary in the implementation of a highly integrated curriculum.

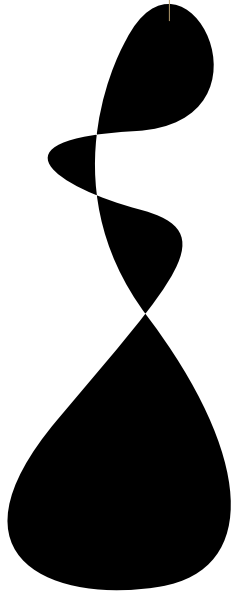
Written observations are submitted to the CENTEX director and discussed weekly for better teaching and learning strategies.



What sets CENTEX apart from other scholarship programs?

The mission and vision of CENTEX, and the commitment to quality education for the underprivileged, differentiate CENTEX from other scholarship programs. A holistic approach inclusive of the needs of parents and the outer community through parent seminar, parent involvement, and financial subsidies (feeding, transportation subsidy, books, and free uniform including socks and shoes), makes the CENTEX project a front-runner in nation building. The commitment of Ayala Foundation is clearly visible in the dedication and faith of CENTEX staff to its mission and vision.

The integrated and global curriculum of CENTEX and its implementation are key to achieving excellence in the education offered to our underprivileged scholars.



What does CENTEX hope to achieve ultimately in providing quality education to underprivileged children?

Offering quality education to underprivileged Filipino children will help create a level field of opportunity, at least among the more gifted children. In the end, we hope to achieve true democracy through equal opportunity. Our poverty levels are still unacceptably high. Quality education is one of the best ways to address this issue.

What concrete plans for improvement does CENTEX have for its 10th anniversary in 2008?

As we move to our 10th year, we confront the issue of tertiary education for our first batch of graduates. While CENTEX is focused on elementary education, Ayala Foundation hopes to develop partnerships with colleges and universities not just in Manila, but also in various islands of the Philippines, to provide scholarships to our graduates.

We have completed a 10-year study of the project. We will address the issues for improvement and look at how we can increase our reach and impact. We intend to focus on training public school teachers throughout the Philippines using our tried-and-tested CENTEX curriculum and the insights we have gained in our first 10 years of operations.

The increasing number of OFWs in the families of CENTEX children has led us to offer seminars on the socio-psychological impact of migration. The families left behind need guidance in the financial as well as social impact of the OFW way of life. We plan to create a module addressing this issue.

As a follow-up of our values education, we will have the following programs for our high school students: a leadership course centered on ethical and moral responsibilities, and a module on career planning with focus on the emerging skills of individual scholars to guide them to a college degree compatible with their skills.