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DATE: September 24, 1999

REF: 118-1807

NAME: Leonardo Ernesto RUIZ-BRICENO

COUNTRY: Venezuela

PURPOSE OF THIS EVALUATION: To validate the educational experience of the client in terms of educational equivalencies in the United States.

DOCUMENTATION

Received for the purposes of evaluation and validation the following:

1. IEE, Inc. application
2. Copies of original and translation of Confirmation Letter of Attendance, National Polytechnical University Institute of the Armed Forces, 1977-1981
3. Copies of original and translation of Certificate from the Ministry of Education, Republic of Venezuela, for the title of Bachelor in Sciences, dated 1977
4. Copies of original and translation of Diploma of Systems Engineer, Universidad de Los Andes, dated 1994
5. Copies of numerous training Certificates attended at the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello, 1995-1996
6. Copies of four training Certificates, Intergraph Servicios de Venezuela, 1998
7. Copies of two training Certificates, El Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administracion, 1995
8. Copies of numerous other related training Certificates

EVALUATION

Education in Venezuela parallels that in the U.S.A. structurally. The primary school consists of six years; intermediate, three years; and, higher education, three years. Since 1969 the intermediate grades (7 through 9) have been called the Basic Cycle. The upper secondary is named Diversified Cycle. Students in the Diversified Cycle have seven tracks from which to choose and many options in each track. Upon completion students receive the *bachiller* or high school diploma. Tertiary education ranges from two to seven years. The predominant first degree is the *licenciado* which is normally four years long and occasionally five.

Academic records show that Leonardo Ernesto Ruiz-Briceno was awarded the *Bachiller* in 1977. This award equates to the U.S.A. high school diploma. During the years 1977-1981 he was a regular student at the National Polytechnical University Institute of the Armed Forces. According to the information submitted, he attended for four years divided into 12 academic terms of 14 weeks each. He completed 52 subjects (175 credits) of the 57 subjects (209 credits) in the curriculum; no degree was awarded. According to the syllabus, this program included courses in mathematics, physics, and engineering science in the first year, followed by advanced mathematics and the foundation courses in electrical engineering in the second year. The remaining years contained advanced courses in the major of electrical engineering. Further, in 1994 Mr. Ruiz-Briceno was awarded the Title of Systems Engineer from the Universidad de Los Andes. According to the IEE, Inc. application form, this title was awarded for four years of study completed during the period 1984-1989. No transcript was submitted. According to the syllabus, this program contained five years of undergraduate study in the area of systems engineering. The designation "systems engineer" is broad; it is presumed that the course of study in this case is in the area of electrical/electronic engineering as was his previous study at the previous institution. In summary, Mr. Ruiz-Briceno's combined study compares to some nine years of U.S.A. undergraduate study covering the areas of electrical/electronic and systems engineering. Also, Mr. Ruiz-Briceno received a number of certificates documenting various short courses attended. These courses provide valuable professional development but add no additional academic credits.

The National Polytechnical University Institute of the Armed Forces is a military institution comparable to those in the United States. No enrollment data were available. The Universidad de Los Andes was founded in 1785 and enrolled 34,294 students in ten faculties in 1998. The University compares to an accredited university in the United States.

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ATTESTATION

Leonardo Ernesto Ruiz-Briceno presents from Venezuela proof of post-secondary academic credits which equate to the U.S.A. Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree with a specialization in Systems Engineering.

IEE, Inc. evaluations are based on the judgement of evaluators experienced in international education, a review of current literature, and documentation provided. This evaluation is advisory only and is in no way binding on any U.S.A. institution, agency, or organization, each of which has the authority to make decisions that it chooses in regard to the educational equivalencies.


IEE, Inc.

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