

April 14, 2026

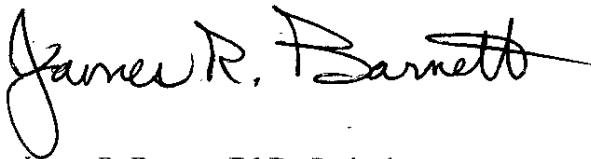
University of West Florida
Search Committee, Continuing Contract

It is my distinct pleasure to provide a reference for Mr. Mark Olvera, President of the Olvera Company, Inc., as part of the University's continuing contract application process. I have known Mr. Olvera since the fall of 2001, when our organization hosted a construction industry meet-and-greet for businesses with which the university had conducted business with for years. Mark, then a project manager with the Morrette Company, attended.

During my tenure as the chief facilities officer for the university, Mark was the project manager for a residence hall, the College of Business, which involved complex buried utilities installation, multiple rehabilitation projects following the 2004 Hurricane Ivan storm, roofing, and multiple small minor remodeling/renovation projects. When attending meetings with him from an owner's perspective, his project management skills were outstanding. He was well prepared, provided excellent information, exhibited outstanding problem-solving resolutions, ready for discussions pertaining to estimated costs of differing probable scenarios, and provided reasonable schedules. During project programming sessions when using the Construction Management at Risk delivery method, Mr. Olvera was a valued participant, who continually responded to end-user individuals, design professionals, and facilities staff with clarity, expertise, and patience.

Mark Olvera is a leader with high integrity and communication skills. He has worked on major projects and small projects. No matter the size, Mr. Olvera always approached them in the right way that developed trust over time. Truly, Mark will work for and represent your organization at the highest level.

Please place Mr. Olvera's company application in the evaluation process you have devised. I am quite confident your Committee members will be pleased with his leadership approach and value for the organization and university. My strong advice is to execute a contract with his firm and put them to work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Barnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James R. Barnett, Ed.D., Retired
Associate V.P. for Facilities, 2001-2016