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Dear Scholarship Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Erin V. Cribbs for the Dr. Charles Mitchell NASBE Leadership Scholarship. I have had the privilege of knowing and observing Erin's professional growth for the better part of a decade, first during her impactful tenure as an Instructional Specialist for Career and Technical Education (CTE), then as a highly effective school principal, and most recently as a dedicated doctoral intern with our Innovation Office. Throughout these years, Erin has consistently demonstrated the strategic vision, instructional expertise, and unwavering commitment to student success that this scholarship seeks to recognize.

Erin's capacity for large-scale instructional leadership was evident during her time as an Instructional Specialist for Career Academy Programs. She successfully provided professional development and coordinated curriculum for 14 career academies, impacting over 14,000 students. Her work was not just theoretical; she led the implementation of new academies and trained dozens of teachers in industry-specific certifications, showcasing her ability to turn strategic plans into tangible classroom results.

This system-level experience provided a strong foundation for her success as the Principal of Walker Mill Middle School. There, Erin proved to be a transformative leader. She engaged all stakeholders in a shared vision, collaboratively set ambitious learning targets, and masterfully used data to inform instructional decisions and organizational changes. Her leadership yielded impressive and measurable outcomes, including significant increases in RELA benchmark scores across all grade levels and PARCC growth in both math and reading. The school's receipt of the Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education award in both 2019 and 2025 further attests to the highquality learning environment she cultivated.

One of Erin's most significant strengths is her ability to build capacity in others, a core tenet of effective leadership. Her resume is replete with examples of coaching, mentoring, and developing staff. This skill has now expanded beyond her own school building. Through her work with Cribbs EDU Consulting, she has partnered with over 15 principals on strategic planning and leadership development. Furthermore, her selection as a Faculty Member for the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) Leadership Institute, where she develops over 150 school leaders, is a national recognition of her expertise in coaching and professional development.

Now, as a doctoral intern and a candidate for a Doctorate of Education in School System Leadership at the University of Maryland, Erin continues to demonstrate her commitment to lifelong learning and innovation. She is not a leader who rests on her laurels but one who actively seeks to understand and shape the future of education. Her passion for improving systems and her proven track record of success make her an exceptional candidate who embodies the spirit and values of Dr. Charles Mitchell.

I am confident that Erin V. Cribbs will leverage this scholarship to further amplify her impact on students, educators, and school systems. She is precisely the type of visionary and dedicated leader the Dr. Charles Mitchell NASBE Leadership Scholarship was designed to support. I give her my highest and most sincere recommendation.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Sandra Rose, Ed.D.

**Innovation Officer** 

