



Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Mr. Kenneth Morris, Jr. in support of his application for the Dr. Charles Mitchell, Jr. Scholarship. As the former Vice President for Student Development and current Chief Executive Officer of IMAN Consulting, I have had the privilege of witnessing Kenneth's professional excellence, character, and leadership. He exemplifies the very essence of what this scholarship seeks to honor—a commitment to educational leadership, community uplift, and service grounded in integrity and care.

Kenneth is an educational professional with over two decades of progressive experience spanning diversity, equity, and inclusion, student engagement, and intercultural development. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement and Chief Diversity Officer for the Ankeny Community School District, where his leadership has transformed the way schools and communities partner to foster a sense of belonging and promote student success. His visionary approach to engagement has not only deepened relationships between families, educators, and community leaders but has also resulted in tangible systems of support that bridge schools with local organizations and faith-based partners.

Beyond his district leadership, Kenneth has made a remarkable impact through his work with IMAN Consulting, where he has been instrumental in expanding education and training programs that serve museums, Head Start programs, and service providers across the state of Iowa, supporting unhoused youth. His facilitation skills, empathy, and ability to build alliances across sectors have strengthened our collective capacity to create caring communities rooted in human connection.

Kenneth's academic pursuits reflect the same level of intentionality and excellence that define his professional journey. As a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at Drake University, his research interests—diversity education, intercultural development, and alliance-building—demonstrate both intellectual rigor and practical relevance. His professional certifications, including Certified Diversity Executive (CDE) and Intercultural Development Inventory Qualified Administrator, further reinforce his expertise and lifelong commitment to advancing inclusive learning environments.

What truly distinguishes Kenneth is his unwavering integrity. He is a man of his word, a steady and principled leader who is authentic and service-oriented. His colleagues and community partners describe him as someone who leads with excellence and heart. In every context, Kenneth models what it means to uplift others and ensure that education remains a transformative force in people's lives. He is not only deserving of the Dr. Charles Mitchell, Jr. Scholarship—he embodies its spirit.

Kenneth's dedication to education, equity, and leadership represents the very best of NABSE's mission. I recommend him with the utmost confidence that he will continue to make enduring contributions to the field of educational leadership.

With highest regard,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Wilson'.

LaDrina Wilson, PhD