

October 13, 2025

Scholarship Selection Committee
National Association of Black School Educators (NABSE)
4005 Wisconsin Ave. NW #5704
Washington, D.C. 20016-9997

Dear Members of the Scholarship Selection Committee

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I write this letter in support of Kenneth "Ken" Morris, Jr. for the Dr. Charles Mitchell, Jr. Leadership Scholarship. I had the honor of working closely with Ken as part of the African American Leadership Academy, where I served as program lead and facilitator during his cohort's community leadership project.

From the beginning, Ken stood out as a thoughtful, strategic, and purpose-driven leader. His participation in the Academy's *Through the Lens: Visionaries of Mental Wellness* project demonstrated his leadership and his commitment to advancing community well-being. Ken played an important role in developing and promoting a statewide initiative that celebrated the strength and beauty of the African American spirit while raising awareness about mental health and resilience. His contributions reflected both his professional skill and his deep empathy for others.

Ken brings a unique blend of scholarship, servant leadership, and vision to everything he does. As the Executive Director of Family and Community Engagement for the Ankeny Community School District, he leads with humility, purpose, and a steadfast belief in the power of belonging. His work bridges families, schools, and communities through initiatives that center student voice, cultural affirmation, and equity-focused practice. These same qualities make him an ideal candidate for this prestigious award.

Ken's pursuit of his doctoral degree in education at Drake University further demonstrates his dedication to personal growth and educational excellence. He embodies the core values of the National Association of Black School Educators in his advocacy, empowerment, and academic advancement. Through his scholarship and leadership, he continues to create pathways for others to thrive, particularly students and educators of color across Iowa and beyond.

I have no doubt that Ken will continue to make significant contributions to the field of education and to the NABSE community. His integrity, insight, and unwavering commitment to service will ensure that the investment in his education yields benefits far beyond himself.

It has been a privilege to witness Ken's journey and to see how his leadership uplifts others. I wholeheartedly recommend him for the Dr. Charles Mitchell, Jr. Leadership Scholarship and am confident that he will continue to exemplify the excellence this award represents.

Respectfully,



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Professional Associate of Kenneth Morris Jr.
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