Shirley Kelly
English/Yearbook Teacher
Riverside High School
Durham, NC
shirley_kelly@dpsnc.net
(919) 560-3965; Extension 65146

September 22, 2025

Scholarship Committee National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE)

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Dr. Charles Mitchell, Jr. Leadership Scholarship – Tammy Patterson

Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

It is with the utmost respect and enthusiasm that I write to recommend Ms. Tammy Patterson for the

Dr. Charles Mitchell, Jr. Leadership Scholarship. As an Assistant Principal at Riverside High School and a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Ms. Patterson exemplifies the qualities of integrity, vision, and commitment to equity that this prestigious award seeks to honor.

Throughout her tenure in education, Ms. Patterson has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to fostering inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments. Her leadership is marked by a deep understanding of the systemic challenges faced by Black educators and students, and she consistently works to dismantle those barriers through strategic advocacy, mentorship, and community engagement.

Ms. Patterson's academic pursuits are a natural extension of her professional excellence. Her doctoral studies reflect not only her intellectual rigor but also her desire to effect meaningful change in educational leadership. She is deeply committed to increasing Black representation at a district level. leadership and has already made significant contributions toward that goal through her work at Riverside High School.

Her résumé and professional biography reveal a career distinguished by innovation, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to student achievement. As my assistant principal at Riverside, Ms. Patterson leads with empathy and purpose, and she possesses the strategic acumen necessary to navigate complex educational landscapes. She is a role model to her peers and a source of inspiration to the students she serves.

I am confident that Ms. Patterson will continue to be a transformative force in education, and I wholeheartedly endorse her candidacy for the Dr. Charles Mitchell, Jr. Leadership Scholarship. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With high regards,

Shirley W. Kelly, English/Yearbook Teacher – Riverside High School