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NABSE Scholarship Committee
National Alliance of Black School Educators

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I recommend Mrs. Tammy T. Patterson for the NABSE \$10,000 Scholarship recognizing aspiring superintendents and doctoral students in educational leadership. Having worked alongside Mrs. Patterson and witnessed her leadership in action, I can attest that she embodies the very essence of what this scholarship seeks to honor—visionary leadership, cultural responsiveness, and an unwavering commitment to educational excellence and equity.

Mrs. Patterson's career, spanning more than two decades, reflects both depth and purpose. As Assistant Principal at Riverside High School, she has been instrumental in expanding equitable access to rigorous academic opportunities. Through her leadership, Advanced Placement enrollment has grown, the Project Lead the Way Distinguished Engineering Program has flourished, and Riverside has become one of only seven high schools in North Carolina recognized for this distinction. These achievements are not coincidental—they are the result of her strategic thinking, her belief in data-driven improvement, and her ability to inspire both educators and students toward shared goals.

Equally impressive is her capacity to transform school culture. Mrs. Patterson relaunched the AVID program, embedding it into the fabric of Riverside's identity to promote student ownership and access. She also created the Badge Up accountability system, a model for relationship-centered discipline and student empowerment. In every initiative she leads, her approach is rooted in collaboration, accountability, and the conviction that every student—regardless of background—deserves an opportunity to thrive.

Mrs. Patterson's leadership extends beyond her school. A National Board-Certified educator and participant in North Carolina's Future-Ready Leadership Program, she consistently invests in her own growth while uplifting those around her. Her leadership is not positional but transformational—she develops teachers, strengthens systems, and ensures that equity and cultural responsiveness remain central to every decision. Her pursuit of the Doctorate in

Educational Leadership at UNC Greensboro, with a minor in Cultural Studies, further underscores her commitment to addressing systemic barriers and shaping inclusive learning environments at the district level.

In every respect, Tammy Patterson exemplifies the heart and mission of NABSE. She is an educator of purpose, a leader of integrity, and a change agent deeply committed to preparing future generations for success. Her track record, reflective leadership, and forward-looking vision make her not only a deserving scholarship recipient but also an emerging superintendent who will continue to advance equity and excellence in education for years to come.

It is my distinct honor to support her candidacy without reservation. Please feel free to contact me at [your phone number] or [your email] if you require additional information.

With highest regard,

Heather T. Ward
Executive Assistant to CEO
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