

Springfield Public Schools
Office of the Executive Director of Academics
1359 East St. Louis Street · 417-576-8310 · clmagers@spsmail.org

October 13, 2025

The Selection Committee

National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE)
c/o NABSE Awards Committee

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with great pride and respect that I submit this letter of recommendation in support of Dr. Kenneth Carlisle-Davis for the Marcus Foster Distinguished Educator Award. I have had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Carlisle-Davis for the past two years in my capacity as Executive Director of Academics for Springfield Public Schools. During this time, I have witnessed his exceptional leadership, unwavering commitment to equity, and profound influence on both students and educators across our district.

Dr. Carlisle-Davis exemplifies the very essence of this award through his steadfast dedication to ensuring access and opportunity for all students. Working in close partnership with our Access and Opportunity Department, he has consistently championed the dismantling of barriers that hinder underrepresented student groups. His leadership extends beyond policy into purposeful action—transforming our district's practices to promote inclusion, representation, and equity at every level.

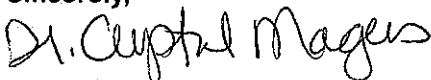
Among his most significant contributions is the design and implementation of a Leadership Series for PreK–12 school leaders, intentionally focused on closing the “knowing–doing” gap across Springfield Public Schools. Through this initiative, Dr. Carlisle-Davis facilitates three hours of professional learning each month for principals in collaboration with Academic Department Directors. The second phase of this series involves learning walks across campuses which reinforces the application of leadership learning, providing both celebration and accountability for continuous instructional improvement. This model has been instrumental in building leadership capacity and driving consistent, systemic progress throughout the district.

As a colleague, Dr. Carlisle-Davis is both visionary and collaborative. He has successfully led the Executive Directors team in developing coherent instructional strategies that elevate the capacity of building principals district-wide. His approach embodies inclusivity, shared leadership, and a deep belief in the collective power of educators to make a difference. Beyond his strategic and instructional expertise, Dr. Carlisle-Davis's integrity, professionalism, and compassion have inspired those around him and strengthened our organizational culture.

In every sense, Dr. Kenneth Carlisle-Davis is an educator who leads with purpose, passion, and principle. His impact is not only seen in improved instructional outcomes but felt through a more equitable and empowered educational community. It is without reservation that I recommend him for the Marcus Foster Distinguished Educator Award.

Thank you for your consideration of this deserving nominee. Please feel free to contact me at 417-576-8310 or clmagers@spsmail.org if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Crystal Magers
Executive Director of Academics
Springfield Public Schools