



FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

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October 15, 2025

W. E. B. Du Bois Higher Education Award Committee  
National Alliance of Black School Educators  
4005 Wisconsin Ave. NW #5704  
Washington, D.C. 20016-9997

Dear Members of the Award Committee,

I am writing to offer my strong endorsement of **Ms. Jhaneil Thompson** for the Mary McLeod Bethune Outstanding Teacher Award. I first met Ms. Thompson during her first semester as a transfer student at Florida A&M University. Over the past nine years, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. Thompson and have seen firsthand her exceptional skills in collaboration, instructional delivery, and teamwork. I have watched her become a talented, principled, and caring practitioner and scholar.

Ms. Thompson has consistently demonstrated professionalism in collaborative environments. Her leadership and collaborative work were evident during her time as a PURPOSE Research Fellow (Partners United for Research Pathways Oriented to Social Justice in Education), where she conducted a year-long research project on preservice teachers' reflective practices during online teaching. Together, we created S.T.R.I.K.E. at Night Literacy Camp, an online bedtime read-aloud initiative for children living in book deserts. She wrote and secured grant funding to launch and scale the program, which has been supported by the National Science Foundation and Specialized Literacy Professionals. Additionally, as an active member of the Student Florida Education Association, she contributed significantly to various initiatives, working effectively with her peers and faculty to support the development of future educators.

Ms. Thompson is an outstanding educator who delivers effective instruction. Her classroom results speak for themselves. At Crossroad Academy in Gadsden County, her third graders led the district in FSA ELA. In 2023–2024 at Pineview Elementary in Tallahassee, Florida, 59 percent of her students read on or above grade level, 78 percent showed literacy growth, and 75 percent of students in the bottom quartile exceeded growth expectations, leading the way for Pineview to earn its first A in school history. Her recognition as the 2024 International Conference on Urban Education Teacher of the Year and as an International Literacy Association 2023 30 Under 30 honoree is testament to the exceptional work she does as an educator.

Ms. Thompson's scholarship is among her many contributions to the profession. She has co-authored peer-reviewed work, including the chapter *"You're All I Need to Get By: A Reimagined Method to Mentorship"* in *Best Practices and Programmatic Approaches for Mentoring Educational Leaders* from IGI Global. She also participated as both a fellow and a mentor in the Thurgood Marshall Teacher Quality Retention Program. Her commitment to teamwork is exemplified in her involvement in various community and academic initiatives, where she consistently works toward shared goals.

I have seen her teach with precision, lead with humility, and center students and families in every decision. I am deeply proud to have known her first as a student and now as a colleague. Without hesitation, I proudly

nominate **Ms. Jhaneil Thompson** for the Mary McLeod Bethune Outstanding Teacher Award. I am confident that she will continue to make significant contributions to the field of education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheron H. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheron" being the most prominent part.

Cheron H. Davis, Ph.D.  
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