

March 2, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Mr. Anthony Mitchell to Elon University. Mr. Mitchell is a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort of South Atlanta High School's Advocating for the Community Through STEM Program. Although there is a national effort to increase the number of women in STEM fields, in our community and school we struggle to motivate our young men of color to strive for any level of academic achievement. Often, they will invest the vast majority of their time, energy and focus on athletics while academics and extracurricular experiences take a back seat. This has not been the case for Mr. Mitchell. He has navigated his high school tenure with a willingness to participate in every aspect of his high school experience but has done so with a maturity and uncanny wisdom that has allowed for him to make decisions that honor the broader picture for his future.

Mr. Mitchell has epitomized the definition of being a "well-rounded" student. Academically, he sits in the top 10% of his class; a place that is unfortunately abnormal for young men in our school. He also has served as one of two Chief Science Officers (CSO) for South Atlanta High School and is a part of the state Chief Science Officer Leadership Council for the state of Georgia. Mr. Mitchell participates in these activities while also being a valued member and leader of our school's football, track and wrestling teams. In the summer of 2019, he participated in a three-week summer STEM program sponsored by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and few local organizations. While in the program, students learned a variety of topics such as basic coding, 3D printing and the use of aquaponics systems. At the end of the program, he and two of his classmates presented an application that would address the constant flooding of a creek that is near our school. As a result, not only did the application gain the interest of Atlanta Watershed Authority Commissioner, Kishia L. Powell but the team was also invited to meet with Ms. Powell and her cabinet last December. They were extended the opportunity to intern with the authority however the global Covid-19 pandemic put a halt to those plans. This year, upon his return to face-to-face learning, he expressed a desire to continue the project as a senior capstone project. Currently, he and his team are working with STEM experts to develop a prototype to pitch to the community.

As an educator, we encourage many of our students to pursue higher education because although college is not the best fit for every student, for many of our youth it is the most viable opportunity they have to properly position themselves for future success. Funding a post-secondary education is one of the larger obstacles that students like Mr. Mitchell must overcome in order to pursue a higher education. I have seen far too many students choose to not attend college for expenses that may seem small for some but can seem insurmountable to our young people. Currently, Mr. Mitchell has been accepted to a number of colleges and universities including North Carolina A&T, West Georgia and Mississippi State. Your award will alleviate the financial burden that Mr. Mitchell will have to endure and allow for him to focus his efforts on a smooth matriculation into higher education. With that being said, it is my honor to submit this letter in support of Mr. Mitchell's receipt of your scholarship award. I am confident that he will prove to be a worthy recipient of the award. If there is any additional information that you need regarding his qualifications in this process, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Andrea P. Miller  
STEM Signature Coach and Specialist  
South Atlanta High School  
Work: 404-802-5037  
Mobile: 404-316-5528  
[apmiller@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:apmiller@atlanta.k12.ga.us)

*"Work daily to change the mindset of who we are and what we can do."*