



March 3, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Benjamin Harper. His dedication to community service, passion for academic leadership, and inspirational vision for his collegiate career align directly with the lofty aims and mission critical objectives of higher education institutions around the world. Benjamin is a unique and incredibly talented individual who will bring great value and differentiated contribution.

I met Benjamin four years ago at a local food drive that he attended with his mother, Mrs. Juanika Harper. Juanika and I are both graduates of Leadership Atlanta and have dedicated our lives and careers to serving the most marginalized communities and providing resources for sustainable progress. From the moment I met Benjamin, I have been impressed with his passion for economics and his desire to solve some of the world's most pressing issues. Benjamin possesses a rare quality - compassion. A few years ago, after reading about the economic wealth gap in America, Benjamin began to research ways to solve this problem. As he gained more insights and information about this issue that plagues people of color, it ultimately became the catalyst in choosing his intended career path. Benjamin plans to attend Morehouse College and ultimately become an investment banker and create a non-profit that focuses on financial literacy for marginalized students and their parents.

Benjamin is also passionate about the global economy and created an initiative to help resolve the issue of the banning of used clothing in the country of Rwanda. In addition to his community efforts, he is a four-year varsity golfer and won the regional championship two times, as well as being a runner up in the State of Georgia. As a young Black man, Benjamin advocates for young golfers of color, and he is the youngest volunteer for the First Tee of East Lake, in which he won the *First Tee Distinguished* golfer award twice.

Overall, Benjamin is a leader that will excel in any field. Given that his resume will present his range of professional experiences and innumerable awards, my recommendation for Benjamin stands not so much on what he's accomplished, but more so on who he is. He shares his time generously, lends his voice where needed and serves as a guide to countless individuals. Benjamin's energy, passion and new perspectives will be of great value to any academic institution.

Sincerely,

Nzinga Shaw
Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer
The Recording Academy | GRAMMYS