

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. DeCarlos McKinney, one of my most dedicated, creative, empathetic students, whom I have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing throughout his entire high school career. Mr. McKinney first entered my classroom as a student in my High School Transition and American Government freshmen courses. Even in those early days, it was clear that Mr. McKinney was exceptionally observant, persistent, and intellectually curious. I was also fortunate to have served as Mr. McKinney's AP Psychology teacher during the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. McKinney's commitment to his academics during that most disruptive year is just one example of his brilliance and persistence, of which there are many.

This year, like previous years, Mr. McKinney has been a consistent leader in the classroom, driving our discussions with insightful analysis and probing questions that help his peers better understand the often challenging, somewhat abstract concepts of Economics. He makes connections and asks questions that enhance his own learning as well as those around him. Mr. McKinney's curiosity and deep interest in the world is inspiring and influential and will surely prove to be a great asset to any collegiate classroom in which he may find himself.

In addition to his academic excellence, Mr. McKinney is a civic leader at BEST Academy and Atlanta Public Schools, having run and won in several elections. I have had the great privilege to serve as the BEST advisor for the Student Advisory Council, of which Mr. McKinney has been a member since its inception. The Council serves to advise the Atlanta Public School Board and provide a student perspective on the most important issues facing our district. Mr. McKinney's leadership was noted when he was chosen to serve as a student facilitator for an Atlanta Mayoral debate hosted by Atlanta Public Schools. I was so proud to see him on stage, asking critical questions of the candidates seeking to represent him and his peers in City Hall.

One key to Mr. McKinney's success has been his commitment to living a well-rounded life. Mr. McKinney is an athlete, having participated in Cross Country and Track at BEST. He is a worker, holding a part-time job, and he is a good friend, cultivating relationships and bringing out the best in those around him. Mr. McKinney has overcome obstacle after obstacle and has embraced the journey, recognizing that each challenge, mistake, or setback is an opportunity for growth in pursuit of his ambitious goals. I look forward to watching his career with great interest.

Please reach out to me if you have any further questions.

Respectfully,
Mr. Greg Beach