

June 20, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for **Michael Adu**, a 2016 graduate from Westfield State University. Michael is seeking acceptance to Providence College's Masters in Higher Education Program. My name is Celeste Donovan and I serve as the Director of the TRIO Student Support Services Program at Westfield State. We are a federally-funded Department of Education program supporting the academic success of first-generation college, low-income, and/or students with documented disabilities. Michael actively participated in our program throughout his undergraduate years at WSU. I closely monitored his academic performance and provided consistent academic counseling around intellectual interests, short-term and long-term academic goals, and professional aspirations.

Through all the time that I worked with Michael at Westfield State, he was passionate about pursuing a career that involved mentorship, with particular interests in youth, young men of color, and athletes. He knows firsthand the necessity and benefit of strong mentoring, particularly for young men in challenging socioeconomic circumstances. Michael has a keen sense of social justice and is driven to advocate for others. Since his graduation, he has diligently pursued opportunities that would develop his professional experience in his chosen field, including basketball coaching as well as his current employment as a Direct Support Professional with the Seven Hills Foundation.

Michael has kept in regular touch with me over these past couple of years, continuing to seek my guidance and support in his professional pursuits. His drive is unwavering. I have felt excited by our communication about his desire to attend Providence College to obtain his Masters in Higher Education. I believe he has promise as a graduate student, as I think this is a very appropriate field for Michael. I think he has the capacity to nurture, guide, and inspire college students in their educational, professional, and athletic goals. Michael is a thoughtful, hardworking, and focused young man.

I believe Michael has a bright future ahead of him in higher education. If I can offer any more information, please feel free to contact me at 413-572-5462.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Celeste Donovan, PhD