

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Minette Boyd
The Akron Urban League, 440 Vernon Odom Blvd, Akron, OH 44307
mboyd@akronurbanleague.org via email

Dear Ms. Boyd:

I am writing this letter in support of Bridgestone Americas nomination of Ms. Cara Adams for the Akron Urban League's Academy of Leaders Award, to be awarded in August, 2017.

I have known her since 2002, soon after her graduation from The University of Akron, when she joined the Board of the Akron Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). I could tell she had a passion for getting young people interested in the sciences and engineering: she immediately volunteered to head the Minorities & Women, K-12, and Pre-College Education committees for the Akron Section, and she continues with those to this day. She has been a proponent of starting a "Speakers' Bureau" within Akron ASME, to enlist working engineering professionals to go into the secondary school classrooms to tell the students about engineering. She has rotated through all the Akron ASME officer positions and continues as Secretary to this day.

Ms. Adams was centrally involved in getting Bridgestone Americas to become lead sponsor of the 2008 Akron Council of Engineering & Scientific Societies (ACESS) Honors & Awards Banquet. One of ACESS's most important missions is on behalf of technical education: to recognize secondary school students' science and math achievements, and to support teachers by donating grant money and students by offering college scholarships.

She has been the central driving force behind getting Bridgestone Americas engineers and scientists to volunteer as judges for the Akron Science & Technology Expo ("the Akron science fair") and the Western Reserve District 5 Science Day ("the regional science fair"), for which I coordinate Sponsored Awards. And, she volunteers her time to come help judge at the fairs herself.

Ms. Adams also is a member of the Advisory Committee to the Akron Public Schools (APS) Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Pre-Engineering programs at Firestone, Garfield, and the new STEM (the old Central-Hower) High Schools. These committee members review the curricula to insure they are appropriate to the engineering profession, help procure classroom materials as needed by the PLTW instructors, speak to the PLTW classes, and offer tours of their places of business for the instructors and students.

She was "written up" in 2008 on the national Girl Scouts "Studio 2B", in 2015 by the Tire Industry Association, and in August, 2016 by Crain's Cleveland Business. I would be glad to forward these to you.

And, she was one of the recipients of the Greater Akron Chambers' "30 for the Future" awards in 2009.

Ms. Adams is a very special person, willing to give of herself to help the next generation of technical professionals along their way toward meaningful careers. She is always available to help as needed in such endeavors. As a Professional Engineer (P.E.), I find it indeed refreshing to find a young professional willing to make time in her busy schedule to "give back" to the community as she does.

I wholeheartedly endorse her for the Akron Urban League's Academy of Leaders Award. I cannot imagine anyone more qualified.

Sincerely,



Brent C. Sisler, P.E.
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