August 18, 2020

To Whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of the organization Experienced Professionals Impacting Communities (EPIC). I became familiar with EPIC due to my connection with founder A.J. Donaldson, who I met a few years ago via a valued and important alumnus of the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD) where I have been a tenured faculty member for over a decade and currently serve as Dean.

Mr. Donaldson's keen understanding of our educational system and the gaps that exist for underserved families in under-resourced communities, aligns well with the vision and mission of the SEHD. We share a deeply held commitment and value for educational equity and the reduction of disparities so that every child might have a chance to transform their lives through education. While I have personally witnessed the transformative nature of the work Mr. Donaldson has done in the education landscape, I am excited to be able to witness the impact of his non-profit organization on children. I am also a witness to the depth of understanding, passion and unyielding dedication Mr. Donaldson brings to the table. His ability to dissect the macrosystemic issues in our current educational structures, and filter the needs through organizational response to individual microsystem solutions, is remarkable and sorely needed.

It is for these reasons, along with Mr. Donaldson's commitment, perseverance and record of success, that I wholeheartedly support the vision, the goals, current and future outcomes of EPIC's extraordinarily valuable work. I believe that this is the kind of work that benefits all of us, and is a requirement for maintaining a democratic society with a civically engaged citizenry. As an education academic administrator, I highly encourage Mr. Donaldson's work as he is a brilliant young leader in our field.

All my best,

Laura Kohn-Wood, Ph.D.
Dean & Professor

School of Education and Human Development