

# **BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS NETWORK**

September 27, 2023

Dear Members of The Senate Rules & Executive Appointments Committee:

This letter is sent on behalf of the Black Student Success Network in support of the confirmation of Dr. Charlene Williams as the newly appointed Director of Education for the State of Oregon. We soundly applaud this appointment. We stand ready to be of support in helping Dr. Williams has what is necessary to implement her ambitious plans for equitable education of Oregon's students.

The members of the Black Student Success Network (BSSN) have every confidence that Dr. Williams has the knowledge, skills, and will to address the educational gaps in access and opportunities that appear in early childhood, youth development, and K-12 education settings.

The BSSN consortium of providers currently serve African American/Black students across the state. Many members of our network have worked with Dr. Williams and are familiar with her successes. Under her leadership, Roosevelt High School went on to improve graduation rates and student performance. She earned multiple state and national awards for improving student achievement. Dr. Williams has our full support in addressing the educational issues which were shared by Governor Tina Kotek as she crafted her 2023-2025 priorities.

We look forward to your strong consideration and support in confirming this nomination of Dr. Charlene Williams. She is the right person, at the right time, to make a difference and reverse the current disparities and outcomes of African American/Black students who have not met benchmark. Dr. Williams has our wholehearted support.

We thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

The Black Student Success Network

Mark Jackson  
CEO, Reap Inc

Lamar Winston, Director  
Inner City Basketball

Ron Herndon  
Albina Head Start Executive Director

Dr. S. Renee Mitchell  
Visionary HeARTivist  
I Am MORE LLC

Elaine Harrison  
Albina Early Head Start Director

Donell Morgan, Executive Director  
Elevate Oregon

Velynn Brown  
Chief Director of Programs and Operations  
Black Parent Initiative

Eric Knox  
Executive Director HOLLA

Noni Causey, M.Ed.  
Executive Director, BEAM Village

Kevin Bacon, President  
Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators

Imani Muhammad  
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D.L. Richardson  
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Marsha Williams,  
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Black United Fund of Oregon

Jamal Dar,  
Founder & Executive Director



