

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DOUBLE DISCOVERY CENTER

August 23, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Major Minor Global Youth Forum's Eyes Wide Opened program.

The Double Discovery Center's (DDC) mission is to provide low-income, first-generation college-bound community youth with a comprehensive network of support around academic enrichment, college awareness, and social-emotional wellness so that they are well-prepared for college access and success. An important element of cultivating our students' college readiness is their leadership development so that they can be critically engaged citizens within their communities and our global society.

With Major Minor Global Youth Forum, we will have a partner with the necessary expertise to help us advance our efforts to foster leadership amongst our young people. In particular, the Eyes Wide Opened program modules around *self-discovery, critical thinking, values & beliefs, profile & presentation*, and *wellness* are not only aligned to the content for our College Prep classes, which will allow us to ensure that students receive reinforcing messages but the modules will build specific skills that will empower our young people to be formal and informal leaders. Our students also will benefit from the opportunities to engage with guest speakers that Major Minor will include in the sessions to deepen our students' understanding of contemporary leadership.

Through their Global Youth Forum activities, Major Minor will provide our youth with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate their leadership, which is as necessary as the sessions and modules to educate them about what leadership means. Far too often, young people do not have access to opportunities to practice and hone their learning but Major Minor's program effectively addresses this gap.

Our students will benefit tremendously from our partnership with Major Minor Global Youth Forum. We look forward to building this collaboration with immense enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely,


kecia hayes, Ph.D.

Executive Director, The Double Discovery Center at Columbia University