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Dr. Lei Zhang
Associate Professor
Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences
Room 2038, EASC Building
University of MD Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, MD 21853

Dear Dr. Zhang:

Thank you for consulting me regarding the very generous offer from Apple to underwrite your trip to their 2017 HBCU Faculty Summit. I think it is an outstanding opportunity for you and the university.

I have consulted with the Maryland State Ethics Commission on this question and have great news. There is an exception to the gift prohibition provision for faculty who are accepting travel expenses in exchange for a speaking engagement. Under these circumstances, you are allowed to accept the travel support since you will be presenting at the Summit.

Congratulations to you and I hope that this will open a network of opportunities for our university and our students. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie Billie".

Marie Billie, Esq.
University Counsel