January 4, 2021

Dear Dr. James Dickens,

I write on behalf of the Secondary Math Team with District of Columbia Public Schools in support of American University’s proposal to the National Science Foundation to continue funding Data Science Initiatives. We strongly support this grant application and the focus on expanding awareness and knowledge of Data Science amongst our DCPS teachers and students.

As a school system which strives to prepare our students for college and career readiness, we recognize the importance of Data Science in making our students competitive and ready to contribute in society. Equally important, we must prepare our teachers with the knowledge and skills to support students’ development in Data Science.

Through our current partnership, we have met with Professors Jane Wall and James Dickens to enroll and recruit teachers with Data Science coursework in American University’s Graduate School. Additionally, we have worked collaboratively to support an initiative to build a Data Science course to directly teach to our DCPS students. We have supported conversations between our college and career team to extend opportunities for students to receive Dual Enrollment credit for Data Science courses from American University.

Through this letter, we acknowledge the specific roles and responsibilities we have and hope to continue to fulfill in this partnership. We would expect our role to include:

* Supporting the recruitment and enrollment of DCPS Teachers for data science graduate courses with American University
* Enrolling students in Data Science Dual Enrollment courses with American University
* Fulfilling our responsibilities in the Memorandum of Agreement to develop a Data Science course for DCPS Students and other outlined commitments
* Providing opportunities for American University professors to provide seminars to DCPS teachers on Data Science

We look forward to working with you in support Data Science Initiatives with our DCPS teachers and students.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Cartagena

Director, Secondary Math

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