July 17, 2022

CFUW Headwaters- Building Bridges Scholarship

Dear National CFUW organization,

It is with great pride that I write to recommend Alyiah Davis for consideration in her application for the CFUW Headwaters- Building Bridges Scholarship. I have known Alyiah for over 7 years primarily as a student in my classroom and as a founding member of the Black Chapter at Centre Dufferin District high school of which I am the staff adviser. Additionally, Alyiah has remained in regular contact with me while she completed her post-secondary studies.

Alyiah Davis is one of the most community-minded and social justice-oriented students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching and working with. In her grade 12 year Aliyah not only obtained the highest mark in her English class but she was a leader in all class discussions. She took the time to consider her peer’s perspectives and did not hesitate to make note of inequities she perceived both inside and outside of the classroom walls.

Alyiah noticed a gap at Centre Dufferin District high school - that there was no dedicated space or dedicated celebrations for Black-identifying students. Alyiah took the initiative to organize a small group of Black students who were also interested in creating a space to promote a strong sense of community and pride among all shades of Black-identifying students and thus created what is now called the Black Chapter. It was through the efforts of Alyiah that Centre Dufferin not only saw the birth of the Black Chapter but the first-ever whole school Black History Month assembly. And this does not underscore the fact that she was pivotal in petitioning the Upper Grand District Board to allow Centre Dufferin District high school to raise the Pan-African flag for the entire month of February

I have also had the privilege of receiving regular contact from Alyiah while she completes her post-secondary studies. I am so thrilled to hear that she has remained steadfast in her objective to bring social justice issues to the forefront.

Alyiah is smart, motivated, and a wonderful human being. It manifests through her actions and her credentials. Following the premises above, I believe Alyiah Davis is very much deserving of the CFUW Headwaters- Building Bridges Scholarship for her work with the Black Chapter and the community. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Trinna Thompson, OCT

Centre Dufferin District high school

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