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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter comes to recommend Sara Anniki to your Fulbright U.S. Student Program. My name is Wekesa O. Madzimoyo. I'm the founder and co-director of AYA Educational Institute. MS. Anniki has been a teacher at our school for two years, and it is without reservation that I recommend her. While we'll have a hard time replacing her, her proposed work to trace the African cultural and spiritual element as preserved and used by African and indigenous descendants in Jamaica is an extension of our schools vision. In 2017, our school took 29 students and parents to Cuba in the same spirit.

Her work with middle and high-schoolers and their parents has been outstanding. She has vision and she completes what she starts in a timely fashion. That habit, I expect, will be transferred to this project as well. I especially want to talk about work with parents where she has demonstrated an ability to engage them in their youth's work and to engage them in conversations and subjects germane to her projected study - history, oral literature, African cultural, ancestral retention. The parents seek to take her classes with their students or for themselves. Anniki welcomes them. Key to her success in her proposed Fulbright project will be her ability to communicate across generations. This she does naturally, smoothly, yet authentically.

Jamaica is a treasure trove of African cultural retentions and an island-nation full of storytellers. It's people take pride in having resisted oppression and retained Africanisms. She couldn't have chosen a better location. Although the speed of Jamaican patois can be challenging, Anniki is easily adapts and if it gets too challenging, English is the official language which everyone speaks. One more thing, given her background in literature and history, she'll probably find some of the cultural retentions in the patois.

Because her authenticity, sincere inquisitiveness, and her respect for others, she'll represent the best of the United States.

It's refreshing to find competence, experience and genuine excitement in one package. Too often experience and life's hard knocks leave us jaded. Competence can lead to arrogance. I'm please to report that Sara Anniki is the rare teacher, research, writer, and person who has escaped those pitfalls. Jamaica will love her and Fulbright will appreciate the work she creates.

Wekesa O. Madzimoyo,

Co-Director,
AYA Educational Institute