

School Board

Susan L. Valdes, Chair
Doretha W. Edgecomb, Vice Chair
April Griffin
Sally Harris
Carol W. Kurdell
Melissa Snively
Cindy Stuart



Superintendent of Schools
Addison Davis

Chief of Schools
Harrison Peters

Area Superintendent, Area 1
Lisa Yost

Principal
Jesse Salters

September 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the distinct pleasure of having Britnee as a student in my Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. AVID is a college readiness program whose mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Britnee is an award-winning photographer who is a student in our performing arts magnet program at Howard W. Blake High School. She has served as an instrumental member of our AVID Leadership Team. Britnee prepared presentations for teachers, administrators and community members regarding improving school culture, and academic strategies to help better prepare students for rigorous classes.

Britnee has also represented Howard W. Blake High School as a member of the Graduation Nation team. This team of students analyzes graduation statistics in conjunction with calling the students to action as a collaborative force. As a key member of the Grad Nation team, Britnee garnered the support of her peers, teachers and administrator, to start a student led Lunch and Learn study group. This initiative helped to support a college-going culture on campus and added to student academic success.

In addition to her work on campus, Britnee led the plight to reach out to our rival historically black high school, Middleton High School, to help form the Black Student Alliance. This organization is an extension of Graduation Nation in which both schools work in conjunction to find solutions to help solve issues which affect the disparities in the traditional minority student populations in both schools. Britnee's organization has hosted a Unity March against gun violence as well as peer tutoring and mentoring programs both on and off campus. Britnee has also been an active member of the NAACP ACT-SO yearlong achievement competition where she represented the Tampa Bay region in the field of photography. Furthermore, she served as a member of the Blake High School Student Government Association and on numerous other organizations while maintaining honor academic standing all four years in attendance.

Simply put, Britnee has been a genuine asset to the AVID Leadership team at Howard W. Blake School and the Tampa community. I highly recommend her for any future endeavor. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (813)966-1834.

Sincerely,

Karen Willis-Barrett, AVID Coordinator

