



Leadership INITIATIVES

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am Marshall Bailly II, Executive Director of Leadership Initiatives, and I am writing to offer my highest endorsement for Meredith Karle. Meredith is an exceptionally driven, hardworking, and intelligent young woman who has worked relentlessly to not only improve her own life and the lives of her peers but also to create lasting positive change for communities around the world.

What sets Meredith apart from others her age are her creativity, dedication, thoughtfulness, foresight, and, above all, her honesty and work ethic. I work with thousands of students each year, and it is rare to meet someone as committed and driven as Meredith.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Meredith over the past two years through various initiatives, including our Global Young Innovators Initiative at Emory University, the International Leadership and Business Internship at Georgetown University, the Leadership Initiatives' International Business & Development Internship, and as an intern with our global development team.

Leadership Initiatives is dedicated to transforming ideas for social and economic change into self-sustaining businesses. Meredith currently serves as Program Director for the Ridgefield High School: Community Renovation Project, which provides key technical assistance to business owners in developing countries, helping them to overcome challenges and develop sustainable solutions.

Meredith's team has worked with Maria Yakubu, a salon owner in Northern Nigeria. Through their efforts, Maria has developed new advertising strategies, created business cards, and become the first female business owner in her region to establish an online presence, significantly increasing customer engagement. This transformation has had a profound impact on Maria's business, her employees, and their families.

In addition to this, Meredith's work is contributing to empowering women in Bauchi State, Nigeria, an area that has been devastated by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram. Through her leadership, Meredith is helping Maria set an example of how women can make a difference and defy the oppressive forces trying to control their lives.

Over the past two years, Meredith has consistently exceeded my expectations. She has worked alongside our board members from organizations such as the Pentagon, the State Department, Georgetown University, Harvard University, and ExxonMobil. She is currently leading our mentorship program, which aims to empower high school

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students across the United States. This program will soon be featured on *Voice of America* and is receiving support from corporate partners such as Microsoft, Starbucks, GlobalGiving, and the International Youth Foundation. Meredith is also working with our board to determine which country Leadership Initiatives will expand into next.

Where most interns I work with only contact me occasionally, Meredith is in constant communication, whether to ask thoughtful questions, share progress on a project, or propose new ideas for how we can better serve our communities. Her dedication to making a difference is unmatched.

Most letters of recommendation speak about students who have the potential to change the world one day. Meredith is different; she has already begun doing so.

I give my highest recommendation to Meredith for admission to your university. She will inspire her peers, challenge her professors, and exemplify the values any university hopes to instill in its students. Meredith is exactly the kind of leader who will contribute to your academic community and make a meaningful impact on the world.

Sincerely,

Marshall James Bailly II
Executive Director
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Leadership Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping leaders in developing communities start and expand local development projects based on the community's needs as they define them. LI works with aspiring community leaders to obtain local funding and provides skills training and continued support for businesses, hospitals, and human rights organizations.

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