



WAYNE STATE College of Education

Office of the Dean
5425 Gullen Mall, Suite 441
Detroit, MI 48202

April 15, 2022

Dr. Mark L. Kornbluh, Provost
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Provost
4228 Faculty Administration Building
Detroit, MI 48202

Dear Provost Kornbluh,

It is with great enthusiasm I write to endorse the establishment of the Detroit Partnership for Education Equity & Research (Detroit PEER) Center. The mission of the proposed center is to produce high-quality research in partnership with Detroit education stakeholders and others who influence the educational ecosystem in Southeast Michigan to inform improvement in policy and practice. The center will work collaboratively with education stakeholders to design and implement studies that answer questions of critical importance to improving the systems that contribute to the academic, behavioral, and socioemotional outcomes of public-school students in Detroit. This work will contribute new knowledge and academic scholarship while also being accessible and actionable to practitioners and policymakers, particularly in Detroit and Michigan.

The Detroit Partnership for Education Equity & Research Center will be the first research center focused exclusively on producing research to advance equitable education policy and practice in partnership with families, students, educators, community groups, and policymakers in Detroit. Aligned with Wayne State University's new strategic plan, the Detroit PEER Center will support the university's aspiration to build on its legacy of community involvement by working directly with Detroiters to expand educational opportunity in the city, including contributing new knowledge to support school improvement in Detroit. The Detroit PEER Center will contribute to the strategic plan objective of strengthening institutional infrastructure to support faculty, staff, and student engagement in community-based programming, services, and research. In addition, formalizing Detroit PEER as a center creates opportunities to enhance the visibility of existing

outreach and community support activities in the College of Education. The Detroit PEER Center will also seek to contribute to the goal of recruiting, supporting, retaining, and empowering a diverse faculty and staff. Of the ten members of the current Detroit PEER team, four are Black women, including one of the founding affiliate faculty members and a newly hired postdoctoral fellow. Our principles, as outlined below, demonstrate our commitment to supporting this goal and others in line with the university's mission.

In summary, the Detroit PEER Center will be an outstanding contributor to the College of Education and Wayne State University and I fully support Dr. Lenhoff's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ingrid Guerra-Lopez".

Ingrid Guerra-Lopez, Ph.D., Interim Dean
College of Education
Wayne State University