



District of Columbia

Office of the State Superintendent of Education

8 February 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Recommendation

I am an associate of the Bitric organization (formerly African Learners). I am the Director and Research Leader at the DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (CIKS) located within the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban, South Africa. The CIKS is a strategic instrument of implementing the South African National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Policy (2004) and facilitates the integration of IKS in higher education. The CIKS endeavours to create a paradigm shift in knowledge production (research), by promoting indigenous ways of knowing (epistemology), value systems and participatory approaches in IKS research methodology and process.

The Bitric organization specializes in creating culturally responsive curriculum for specialty groups to lessen achievement gaps. I worked with members of the Bitric organization here in South Africa while they were performing research to further develop curriculum for Bitric's African Math program. The organization focused on the effectiveness of using indigenous maths knowledge to battle dyscalculia and increase maths performance. I believe Bitric displays a commitment to closing the achievement gap and bettering academic outcomes for people of all ages from all backgrounds.

I support the organization's request to participate in the District of Columbia Education Research Practice Partnership because the work they perform can result in new insights into the processes, practices, and policies that improve education in the capital city of the United States of America. Once proven successful, these processes and practices can positively impact mathematics education in other parts of the world.

Sincerely,

Prof. Hassan O. Kaya

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DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems



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