

Boston University School of Education

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January 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in strong support of the Boston University Calculus Project and Leadership Academy. Professor Robert Weintraub, in our Education Leadership and Policy Studies Department, and his colleague, Dr. Adrian Mims, national director of The Calculus Project, pioneered The Calculus Project in the Brookline Public Schools, beginning in the summer of 2009. The first cohort of students graduated in June, 2014, and the data gathered from this group is extraordinary. For the first time in the history of Brookline High, a significant number of African American, Latino, and low-income students (20%) successfully completed calculus and many earned 3's, 4's, and 5's on the AP Calculus exams. All of The Calculus Project students are now in college, many of them studying the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines. Five additional cohorts in Brookline are today on a trajectory to reach calculus in their senior year of high school.

Dr. Mims is now working in ten school systems in Massachusetts, Maryland, Florida, and New York, supporting these schools in the implementation of The Calculus Project. Dr. Mims and Dr. Weintraub are now proposing to create a BU Calculus Project and Leadership Academy for Boston students. The Academy brings rising eighth graders to BU where they will study the mathematics course they will take in the fall semester. During the school year, the students will receive after-school enrichment and tutorial support in their math course. Also during the school year, they will attend a monthly Saturday Academy at BU for additional instructional support and participate in The Calculus Project's *Pride Curriculum*, which brings accomplished STEM professionals of color to BU for a Speaker Series.

BU math education professors will be engaged in the project as curriculum developers, and their graduate students will serve as tutors in the program, during the summer and school year. Perhaps the most powerful element of this project is that Boston students – from eighth grade through their senior year in high school – will be “in residence” at Boston University, providing them with an experience that can make them very comfortable in a university setting and drive their aspirations for a college degree. The Calculus Project is an important national initiative for historically low-performing students and Boston University's School of Education is proud to support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "H.L.K. Coleman", written over a horizontal line.

Hardin L K Coleman

Inclusive, good-quality education is a foundation for dynamic and equitable societies.

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu