Dear Mr. Alberto Maldonado,

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my application for the Director position of the Inclusive Excellence Center. As an alumna of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and with over 8 years of experience working with low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented minority students, I am confident that my diverse skills and qualifications will make me an asset to the Inclusive Excellence Center team.

The Inclusive Excellence Center invests time and resources into creating a socially just campus. As you will see from the attached resume, I have built my professional career in a variety of roles that promote creating an equitable campus. I have collaborated across numerous disciplines and departments to ensure the effectiveness of student support programming. I have continued this work through my research on how asset-based approaches help underrepresented college students thrive. Through my numerous roles developing programs, I have facilitated several inclusion related workshops such as the Safe Zone Training, which features a workshop for faculty, staff, and students to better understand LGBTQ+ issues, terms, and strategies for supporting all gender and sexual identities. In addition, I have facilitated equity centered events such as a series titled #GetWoke, which focuses on bringing national issues/conversations/debates home and contextualizes them in an interactive setting so members of the campus community are educated on, and can engage with, pressing social justice issues.

My flexibility, attention to detail, and ability to juggle several tasks at once has allowed me to successfully oversee equity driven departments while engaging in direct student support. I am strongly committed to cultivating an equitable climate and have achieved these goals through teaching courses catered to graduate school preparation, financial literacy, and social justice-oriented research methods. In addition, I have advised faculty and staff on how to create a more inclusive campus through interrogating their pedagogical approaches and mentor strategies. The oversight of such programming is integral to the aspirations of creating an inclusive campus, as well as providing students with tools to tackle social justice issues in the increasingly diverse workforce.

I would be thrilled to bring my unique lens and innovative ideas to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Inclusive Excellence Center. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and further discuss the value that I can bring to UWM. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,

Atiera L. Coleman, PhD
Pronouns: She|Her|Hers