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To whom it may concern:

It has been a privilege working with Kevin and Kenya Jones as part of IBM's P-TECH partnership over the past two years. One of our signature Citizenship initiatives, P-TECH connects employee mentors to students at partner schools; these mentors provide professional and academic guidance to students from diverse, low-income communities who are interested in IT careers. A 9-14 school model, P-TECH students are able to complete an associate degree in addition to a high school degree at no cost as part of the 4-6 year program. Upon graduation from a P-TECH school, students are put first in line for entry-levels jobs at IBM.

Since 2015, Kevin and Kenya have been committed mentors for the students of IBM's partner P-TECH school in Chicago, Sarah E Goode STEM Academy. As mentors, they attend quarterly STEM events at the school, building interest and enthusiasm for IT careers. These events have ranged from resume and mock interview workshops to engineering a bridge from minimal materials. In all cases, Kevin and Kenya share their industry expertise and experience with students who may not be familiar with STEM careers. Additionally, both Kevin and Kenya have spoken to student groups about their career and education pathway, serving as role models for those interested in entering similar fields.

We at IBM consider ourselves extremely lucky to have had the support of the Jones family and Jones Software Corp. for the past few years. Their voluntary contribution has been invaluable to the students of Goode STEM Academy. Kevin and Kenya are committed to bettering their community and creating opportunities for the youth of Chicago and Northwest Indiana. Feel free to contact me with any additional questions regarding their involvement with IBM Corporate Citizenship here in Chicago.

Sincerely,

Kateland Beals
Manager, IL, WI, and MI
IBM Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs

71 S Wacker Dr
Chicago, IL 60606
203-583-1729 Tel
kbeals@us.ibm.com