



April 2, 2021

Dan Hayes
Director of Alumni Relations
420 West Main St.,
Danville, VA 24541

Dear Dan,

I am honored to nominate Hermon Mason for the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Averett University. Hermon Mason exemplifies leadership in both business and the community with a service heart and a commitment to excellence. I've had the pleasure of getting to know Hermon over the last few years. I've admired his perseverance in the face of adversity and his drive to positively impact the community, all while maintaining a humble spirit.

Hermon is originally from Petersburg, VA, a small town outside of Richmond. In this town, there are limited opportunities for residents to thrive economically. Many residents' career aspirations are to work for the government, and few residents leave the small town. However, Hermon had a bigger plan for his life to overcome the narrative of the community. Upon high school graduation, Hermon initially enlisted in the US Navy, was honorably discharged, and then served in the US Marine Corp. During his service to our nation, he honed his leadership skills and received multiple military decorations, including the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal. (The Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal is awarded for meritorious service or achievement in either combat or non-combat based on sustained performance or specific achievement of a superlative nature.) Upon his retirement from the Armed Forces, Hermon led the Career Services Department at Corinthian College, where he received multiple awards for his leadership and financial results for the department. Due to his outstanding performance in the college, Hermon received the Presidential Star Award (Employee of the Year). Hermon later went to work for COUNTRY Financial, where he quickly accelerated in leadership through the organization. Against all odds, Hermon became the first African-American Agency Manager in the company's history. Understanding the value that diverse perspectives bring to an organization, Hermon now serves as Chair of the inaugural Multicultural Business Resource Group COUNTRY Financial. Also, he serves as the Diversity Chair for the Finseca (Financial security for all) industry organization. Hermon charted his career trajectory through his commitment to excellence earning the distinction of All American Agency Manager, All-Star Agency Manager, Southern Region Agency Manager of the Year.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Hermon has remained committed to serving the community and impacting underserved communities. He serves on the Board of Directors for Warrick Dunn Charities, an organization committed to stopping the cycle of generational poverty. Hermon has used his gifts and talents to help others thrive despite their current situation leveraging his personal experience of rising out of his hometown, where the poverty rate is 29%. He knows the importance of financial literacy and how it can



exponentially change a community. So, Hermon created a curriculum teaching financial literacy to Warrick Dunn homes' recipients to help them thrive in life and for the families' future generations. As a result of his work in the community, Hermon received the President Barack Obama Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism.

Now, I have to admit, Hermon never shares his accolades with others. I had the pleasure of introducing Hermon at my company event, where he served as a guest panelist. I've always known Hermon to be a kind, outgoing, and humble person. So when I read his bio, I was blown away by his accomplishments. Hermon exemplifies leadership in his actions, which have also been recognized with awards. And I am honored to be able to share them with you.

If you need anything additional from me to support Hermon's nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at (678) 906- 0696.

Sincerely,

Michelle Glover, CEO
Journey Unlimited, LLC
www.journeyunlimited.com