



September 18, 2023

Dear AHEPPP Board of Directors,

It is truly a pleasure to write this letter of support for Cyndy Hill in consideration of a Board position with AHEPPP: Family Engagement in Higher Education. While I have professionally known Cyndy for over 10 years, I have had the pleasure of supporting her work as her supervisor over the last year. The experiences that Cyndy brings are significant and she has truly impacted the lives of Penn State parents, families, and ultimately, their students for over 10 years. I believe Cyndy demonstrates an intense desire to serve and foster community for parents and families at Penn State – a desire deeply based in advocacy, support, and connection.

While serving in my capacity as Assistant Vice President in Student Affairs, I have had the pleasure of watching Cyndy engage in leadership within and outside the Penn State Parents Program. As the Director of the program, Cyndy connects various constituencies across campus, coordinates communications with individuals connected to the parent and family experience, and continuously challenges herself to make administrative collaborations across the larger Penn State community happen in intentional and multi-faceted ways. Cyndy has intentionally focused her efforts in and around equity-informed practices – specifically in expanding engagement for low-income, first-generation families, and those families whose first language may not be English. Outside of these areas, Cyndy is a significant contributor to our larger Division of Student Affairs and challenges our leadership and staff to persevere with student advocacy on campus and support the programs and policies that meet the ever-changing needs of those we are positioned to serve.

Although Cyndy demonstrates a tremendous ability to work with a variety of individuals, Cyndy has engaged in growth opportunities outside her direct position and across the larger university community. She has participated on various committees, supported philanthropic and development efforts focused on the parent and family experience, and has worked in numerous capacities serving and educating individuals within and outside of Penn State around issues relevant to higher education and those navigating it. Through the roles Cyndy has held, I can assure you that she has used her voice to speak up and act to make a difference in the lives of many across the Penn State community, while also augmenting our work in Student Affairs. Cyndy embodies a sincere desire to strive for connection that has certainly benefited her professional experiences at Penn State.

As a person dedicated to learning from and understanding others, I believe Cyndy's experiences will continue to push her to use her voice and act as she works with others from various communities and varied life narratives. Through her experiences, and desire to foster community and connection, I believe Cyndy understands the multiple realities that need to be addressed in working with parents and families, challenging her to constantly assess her actions and her work to build the most inclusive and nurturing environments.

Recognizing Cyndy's tremendous ability to share reflective insight and leadership with Penn State Student Affairs, and the broader University community, I believe Cyndy is an ideal candidate for Board membership with AHEPPP: Family Engagement in Higher Education. I believe this opportunity will allow Cyndy to flourish even further in her work with us, while also sharing experience and developing mutually beneficial colleague connections across higher education. I am supportive of Cyndy's engagement with the Board alongside the time and financial means necessary to serve.

Please feel free to contact me at (814) 863-2906 if I may assist in providing further details.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Patchcoski  
Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
Student Affairs | The Pennsylvania State University