



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

STENY H. HOYER
FIFTH DISTRICT
MARYLAND

August 31, 2012

Career Communications Group Inc.
Attn: Nominations
729 E. Pratt Street, 5th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with my fullest support that I write on behalf of Ms. Rhonda Thomas, Founder & President of *Launching Educational Assistance Programs Forward, Inc. (LEAP Forward)*, for the Career Communications Group's Black Engineer of the Year Award. Having interacted with Ms. Thomas on an array of legislative and educational initiatives, I know her to be an ambitious and highly-skilled leader in the STEM fields in Southern Maryland and very deserving of this recognition.

LEAP Forward is a thriving, grass-roots organization based in Calvert County, Maryland, that aims to familiarize and support minorities, women and disadvantaged students into STEM careers through various means. To name a few: Presentations/Seminars, Scholarships, Professional Mentoring Services, College Tours and College Preparatory Activities. The success *LEAP Forward* has achieved in attracting, retaining and helping to produce exceptional engineers that are female, minority and/or from underserved families is beyond impressive and I am thankful to Ms. Thomas for the positive impact she has made in making STEM careers more accessible to our youth.

It is without reservation that I recommend Ms. Rhonda Thomas for the Black Engineer of the Year Award for the wonderful work she has done and will continue to do as figurehead of *LEAP Forward*. Our community is so fortunate to benefit from her extraordinary dedication and I thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of her nomination.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

STENY H. HOYER

