



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

RICHMOND, VA 23218-2120

May 16, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Ronnie Sidney to you as an addition to your speaker's bureau. I have known about Mr. Sidney for more than a year. He came highly recommended by a colleague from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). When I had an opportunity to contact him, he immediately responded and provided me with examples of his work. In addition, he took an opportunity to visit my office and share a copy of his book, *Nelson Beats the Odds*.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) was able to contract with him to speak to the VDOE's Aspiring Leaders Academy. He provided a gifted presentation on students with disabilities. His perspective as an adult and the product of Virginia's education system is often not heard by leadership, let alone those desiring leadership positions. He is able to speak from the heart and infuse humor. He makes use of creative Keynote presentations as he shares both humorous and not so funny experiences as a student with a disability.

I cannot imagine an audience that would not be inspired by his journey through school, postsecondary education, and finally success as a graduate with a Masters in Social Work, an author, a husband, and a father. He is also the owner of Creative Medicine: Healing Through Words, LLC. The goal of this program is to improve participants' social, emotional and physical health through therapeutic writing and dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marianne Moore".

Marianne Moore

Secondary Transition

Office of Special Education Program Improvement

Division of Special Education and Student Services