



August 23, 2004

Dear Audra:

Words have the ability to inspire or destroy the development of youth during the fragile years of puberty as youth engage in self-exploration. Your motivational speeches, classes, and personal sincerity add to the effective strategies used by the SIMBA program to promote wellness, healthy life style choices and lifelong success in the lives of youth. Your presentation style is age appropriate, clear and comprehensive, which commands the attention and increases the motivation of the youth. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your ongoing class facilitation and presentations to the high-risk youth that participate in SIMBA programming.

It is SIMBA's goal to increase coping skills of high risk youth and juvenile delinquents by offering classes in the areas of health, violence prevention, African American history, vocational skills and aesthetic arts. Therefore, classes are evaluated to determine programming effectiveness. A class survey was administered at the end of each series of the classes you facilitated since you began working with the SIMBA program xx years ago. The students' and staff's results indicated that the majority of the students rated the overall class, materials, their ability to understand the instructor, and the instructor's responses to questions as "excellent". On several occasions, staff have suggested that we work your classes into their core curriculum programming. In addition, when students were asked what they liked most about the classes, they overwhelmingly reported the open discussions, ability to be creative in classes, and the opportunity to express themselves. Lastly, when students were asked what they would change about the classes, students stated to include more students in the classes and to hold the program all year, every year. Unfortunately, funding does not allow for this.

However, the SIMBA Program as well as site staff and students would like to provide you with this written letter of appreciation for your timely programming, dedication, and continued support. As we seek funding for continued programming, your classes and presentations will be held as priority in accomplishing our goals and objectives. It has been a dynamic and valued relationship that we hope to continue.

For the Children,

Tarita Triplett, MSW
Project Director