January 10th, 2011

Dear Selection Committee

My name is Tolvi R. Patterson an African American male graduate of IUPUI in May of 2010. I wanted to take the time to express my admiration and appreciation for Chris Maroldo and to tell you why he should receive the Bynum Mentor Award.

My transition into IUPUI was very hard and trying. It was filled with several obstacles that at one time seemed to shake me on every side. I lacked encouragement guidance and the skills that I needed to prove that I deserved to be a student at the university. Things became worse in October of 2005, which was when my oldest brother mysteriously died from an enlarged heart and spleen. At this point in the semester several things were going on including family issues, emotional distress, low grades, and to top it all off I was dismissed from my school even though they knew my situation. You may be thinking what does this have to do with Chris Maroldo. Well Chris Maroldo is the person who not once but twice took a chance on me. He believed in me when it was hard for me to see the light at the end of the tunnel for myself.

Chris sat me down and shared his story with me and encouraged me to not give up on my dreams and goals in life. He later connected me to other resources and individuals that could better assist me in my endeavors. I personally believe that there are many types of leaders in this world the best of these are those who have had an experience that has taught them how to lead. The skills and experiences that I gained from Chris and the STAR Mentor Program have helped me to prepare for my future. Currently I am the youth leader at my church and do consulting to community centers in the city dealing with disadvantage youth.

The direction that Chris has taken the STAR Mentoring Program is phenomenal. *As a result the STAR Program was nationally recognized in October 2010 as an outstanding institutional award winner for NACADA, by the national academic advising association.* Chris has not only been successful in helping to train and transition young men and women into leadership roles in and around campus, but has also helped us all realize our duty as program alumni to give back what was given to us. His leadership and ability to listen to the students to better assess their needs is a critical part of helping anyone that feels disadvantaged, hurt, not cared about, and pushed aside to feel that they are valued members of this institution.

I am honored and thankful that GOD allowed us to cross paths. Chris Maroldo has played a key component in my development on all levels most importantly being academically savvy. His encouragement to all of us has not just made us better students but better people.

Chris is deserving of this honor because he has not only helped to prepare and equip us for academic success but personal growth and development on and off campus.

If you are looking for a leader in the 21st Century who has the experience and proven track record then you have found the man for the job and that is Chris Maroldo.

Sincerely Yours

Tolvi R. Patterson