A letter describing a project that you will consider implementing at your campus or organization with the name of the Mentor of your preference. Your Mentor can be different from your references and should be a staff with experience in the area selected. The Mentor information will be submitted with the signature to confirm the availability to guide the implementation of your campus initiative. NOTE: If at the moment of sending the application you don't have the signature of your Mentor on the project letter, please upload a document with the evidence (for example: a print screen of an email requesting the signature of your Mentor) that it is being processed along with the contact information of the Mentor.

Project Name: Designing Culturally Sustaining and Responsive Learning Environments for BMCC Online Students

As Borough of Manhattan Community College expands and deepens the online program offerings ("BMCC Online") during the 2023-24 academic year and beyond, it is essential that the component courses, virtual campus spaces, and academic support services all be designed to meet the diverse needs of our students. I propose a project whereby the Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Scholarship (CETLS), Digital Education Center, and Learning Resource Center (LRC), collaborate to assess the learning needs of students enrolled in online degrees and certificate programs and work closely with faculty to design virtual learning environments that foster a sense of belonging for all students, ranging from their orientation to online learning at our college to their courses and to their co-curricular activities. The goal of the project will be to foster inclusivity and equitable learning environments across our online students' academic careers, positioning them to build strong relationships with their peers, instructors, advisers, tutors, academic coaches, and others.

The assessment process will be coordinated within my department, by the Associate Director of Data Analytics and Design, and supported by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics. It will measure the degree to which students' diverse cultures are sustained and responded to in the academic curriculum as well as virtual campus spaces and interactions with academic support staff. The results will be reviewed in close consultation with CETLS, LRC, and faculty who are designing and teaching in online courses and co-curricular areas, and where appropriate will involve others such as the Library in cases where Open Educational Resources play a central role. The Learning Experience Designers in the Digital Education Center will work with faculty, individually and in small groups, to improve the design of courses in our Learning

Management System (LMS) and virtual campus space (BMCC OpenLab) to feature activities that allow students and faculty to share and learn from a wide range of perspectives and cultures.

Lessons learned from the Hispanic Educational Technology Services (HETS) Learning Technologies Leadership Academy would guide the shape that this project takes, informing directions taken for our assessment process, professional development for staff and faculty, and the decision-making processes around technology selection, implementation, and design of online learning spaces.

Mentor: Janice Zummo, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Academic Support Services

Mentor approval: _____