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Department of Dental Hygiene

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May 11, 2016

Dear Ms. Shaquantia Wythe,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude to thank you for your active role as a research assistant currently being conducted here at CityTech. A collaborative study involving Hostos Community College and Farmingdale State College, which is titled: *Feasibility of Administering an Oral HIV Test in University-Based Dental Clinics*, is ground breaking research and one of the first that focuses on the dental hygienist and dental hygiene student and their role in conducting rapid HIV testing. To date, our group work, which first started in 2009, has published two peer-reviewed articles (third one submitted for review), presented scientific posters in 4 national and international conferences, and have received media attention.

Your preparation for this study included certification by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) to enable you to conduct human subject research and a daylong workshop at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to learn how to administer the test: HIV Testing Technologies & Test Results. Additionally, we met on campus to discuss the protocols, practice and actively recruit patients during and outside of your scheduled clinic sessions.

The results will be tabulated and will be published in a Peer Reviewed Journal and presented at local, regional and international conferences. In your resume you may state that you are Institutional Review Board Certified to conduct patient-based research and that you played an integral role in an IRB Certified Patient Study focusing on *Feasibility of Administering an Oral HIV Test in University-Based Dental Clinics*.

We are close to meeting our goal: of 125 tests and once completed, the results will undergo analysis, interpretation and we will use the collected data to facilitate the possibility of reaching the undiagnosed HIV positive patient by testing in a dental environment where the dental hygienist is committed to patient education and disease prevention and willing to administer the Rapid Salivary HIV test.

On behalf of the research team, thank you for your volunteered commitment and assistance in this endeavor. We are very proud of you.

Respectfully & Professionally Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Susan H. Davide'.

Susan H. Davide, RDH, MS, MSED

Assistant Professor

Site Coordinator, Oral Rapid HIV Test Research Study