Dear PhD Committee Member,

Thank you for your interest in helping one of our students to pursue a Ph.D. in International Development with William Carey International University. To familiarize yourself with WCIU and our Ph.D. Program, you may want to visit our website at www.wciu.edu. Information about our Ph.D. Program may be found at here.

Although you may already be familiar with the essential role of the Major Advisor and Committee Members in the work of a Ph.D. student, it may be helpful to review in general terms what would be expected of you. The Major Advisor serves as program advisor to the student and assists him/her in selecting two additional persons to serve on the associate’s Doctoral Committee. The Major Advisor also supervises the associate's course of study and dissertation in conjunction with the committee members. In addition, the Major Advisor is required to assist the student in writing the Doctoral Learning Contract, which spells out the learning activities necessary to produce the dissertation. Major Advisors and Committee Members must hold an earned doctorate in the student’s field of specialization and present evidence of expertise in the method or content area.

While WCIU is located in Pasadena, California, our Ph.D. Program is field-based and may be taken in most regions of the world. This fact results in a widely scattered student body, much more so than in traditional doctoral programs. Therefore, Major Advisors and Committee Members play a major role in the academic process.

Following California law, all members of a doctoral committee must be faculty members of the institution granting the degree. Consequently, we ask Major Advisors and Committee Members to submit the faculty application so that we can appoint them formally as Adjunct Faculty.

Again, thank you for your willingness to serve in this role in order to assist key research to go forward in discovering and addressing the roots of specific problems around the world.

Sincerely,
Beth Snodderly, D. Litt. et Phil.
President