



GIRLS PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
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CHATTANOOGA, TN 37405

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It is with enthusiasm that I endorse the program GigBridge as proposed by Anjali Chandra, on behalf of Global Excel. The new data on the Hispanic high school drop-out rate should trigger an immediate positive response with regard to any program which seeks to recalculate the current situation for our Hispanic residents.

The formula for this proposal has some magic to it. It focuses on a cultural problem – language, obesity, empowerment – through a medium that will resonate with Hispanic Youth – interactive educational apps – with a focused, super-smart, audacious young woman – Anjali Chandra – who will get the work done. Combining Anjali’s enthusiasm with her contacts at CGLA, and GPS, there is every chance for this outlier idea to succeed.

It is very important to know a bit about Anjali Chandra.

I would like to point out that Anjali applied to the University of Minnesota as youngster to complete a research internship at the University. They were so impressed with her activism and focused interest, that they funded her independent research study at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga even though she was the youngest person they had ever taken on as a team member. She was so successful during her internship the summer between her 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade years, that the University of Minnesota invited her to the campus for an on-site internship during the summer between her 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade years. Her research was exciting and has continued throughout her studies at GPS. This is a young woman on the move. She has the highest GPA at Girls Preparatory School and was recently awarded a full scholarship for her Senior Year. She has coordinated local Culture Fest events, Human Rights panels, Interfaith/Diversity workshops... She not only talks about important issues, she puts her heart and soul into action and completes the task. She has organized and implemented a program called “Power-It-Up” with CGLA and is compelled to make this a better world.

The use of interactive “apps” to fight obesity in the Hispanic community is clever and promising. The secondary benefit of translating the apps will create confidence and empowerment for the youth who participate in this creative concept.

With great confidence, I can testify that this project will change lives. Anjali Chandra has the intellect to conceive of the big ideas and the conviction to get the job done. I have seen her take an idea and implement it many times and I suspect we have only seen the very beginnings of Anjali’s innovative and laser-focused ideas. I recommend without reservation the funding of GigBridge. Someone is paying attention to our community’s needs and we need to support this project to stop the obesity and language imbalance in our Chattanooga community. I am quite sure that the success of this program can be easily replicated in other cities once the success is demonstrated. Please fund this project!

Thank you,

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