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Wednesday, November 11, 2020

The AMI/USA Board of Directors is delighted and excited to announce that Dr. Ayize Sabater has accepted the position of Executive Director. Dr. Ayize was selected after a comprehensive search that included numerous highly qualified professionals from across the nation. He will assume his new position on November 16, 2020.

Dr. Ayize is an innovative, dynamic, and passionate educator who brings over 20 years of dedication to education, children, families, and community development. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Morehouse College, a Master's in Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Education from Morgan State University.

In 2001, Dr. Ayize co-founded and served as CEO of Mentors of Minorities in Education (M.O.M.I.E.) TLC in Washington DC which was started to address the lack of high quality out-of-school time programs for low income students. The program was initiated with a \$10,000 grant and eventually developed into a multi-city, vigorous non-profit afterschool program serving children of all ages. Dr. Ayize's organization was awarded a national educational award at the White House from former First Lady Michelle Obama for its pioneering educational work. This organization was the foundation for Dr. Ayize co-founding Shining Stars Montessori Academy (SSMA) public charter school in Washington DC. Notably, SSMA was co-founded and inspired through Dr. Ayize's steadfast commitment to Montessori education, as well as his creative leadership, dedication to sustainable family/community engagement, and his strategic fundraising and development skills.

AMI/USA is at a pivotal point in its 49-year history, as it navigates the severe widespread impact of a global pandemic, and looks forward with hope, sensitivity, and strategic leadership to a brighter future. Plans are in hand for the organization to fortify and broaden its current member community, expand its member services, fulfill its commitment to inclusive anti-bias, anti-racist equity, and define and embrace its national identity as one of the foremost leaders of Montessori education in the US. The Board is confident Dr. Ayize's aggregate experience, ability to work collaboratively through complex organizational development, effectiveness in building relationships across a wide range of stakeholders, engaging leadership approach, and mission-driven tenacity will be key to AMI/USA's strategic vision, future growth, and sustainability.

We would like to thank Alan Preece who has served as the AMI/USA Interim Executive Director since April. Alan stepped in quickly to lead the organization through a difficult time and transition. Alan's expertise and rich background has kept AMI/USA steady and yet innovative through the challenges of this period. His leadership has effectively managed the matters at hand and set forth a foundation for the future of the organization and the next Executive Director to step into. We appreciate Alan's time and sincere commitment and are very happy to know he will continue his work in the AMI community as the Director of Training Centre Evolution and Growth.



*A proud affiliate of Association Montessori Internationale*



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We are excited about the work ahead and the future possibilities awaiting AMI/USA as it continues to support schools, teachers, training centers and works collaboratively with its US affiliates and other key partners in the national and global Montessori community. Please join us in warmly welcoming Dr. Ayize Sabater into this new chapter in AMI/USA history.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mary Levy  
Chair, AMI/USA  
On behalf of the Board of Directors

