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Dear Rebecca Ward,

I have been involved in the eminence service project consistently throughout the year, especially within the Franklin Manor Project of Cultivate Columbus. Over the summer, when the project was focused on building community gardens, I communicated with Mary Nally, who was the director of the Community Food Initiative Non-Profit that built school and community gardens and promoted food security, in order to share information on their start up and discuss how it could influence our plans for a non-profit. During the autumn, I increased my participation within the service project, as I attended the majority of the meetings and participated in the discussions and decisions while completing the assigned action items. Again, when the project was considering a transition to a consulting model rather than a community garden centric model, I conducted the “Consulting Research” in order to provide information on the logistics and expected operation of the new model to further the decision making process. I compiled information about various consulting student organizations and nonprofits in the U.S., which provided ideas on how to make a consulting model successful with the resources we are granted by being part of a university, and some of these ideas were/are planned to be implemented in our model. Additionally, I was one of the two individuals who conducted research on how to become a non-profit, as this was the preferred approach, rather than a student organization; the non-profit application and status remains a non-priority item, but the information gained will be useful during the eventual non-profit application process. Over the Spring, I participated in the Franklin Manor Project and attended and contributed to the meetings and discussions. As part of the Franklin Manor Project, I wrote and revised the Franklin Manor Survey, which was designed as the main planning document to collect information about the preferences of the residents regarding garden design, structure, and involvement. The garden is currently still in its planning stages, and will be structured while implementing the information gained through the survey.

Respectfully,
~Asia McKenzie