



February 5, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Nichole Campbell over the last 3 years in research and academic settings. I met Dr. Campbell while she conducted her research at The North Florida Retirement Village from March 2012-January 2013 (The Enhanced Independent Living Development Study: Informing a New Housing Solution for Aging in Place in a Planned Retirement Community).

I am a seasoned healthcare executive with over 15 years of experience in the senior living/elder care field and have a passion for seniors and a strong interest in the social engagement aspect of aging.

I currently serve as the Executive Director of the North Florida Retirement Village aka "The Village", a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Assisted Living and Rental Retirement Community. The Village is located on a 104 acre campus in Gainesville, FL and is home to over 700 residents and 330 employees. My prior experience includes my role as Executive Director of The Atrium at Navesink Harbor in Red Bank, New Jersey. During this time, I established and directed a Resident Assessment process which involved working with residents, families, doctors and staff on methods to improve resident independence. In addition, the resident assessment process has set the standard within this organization and is now used throughout other facilities. During the last three years, my team and I have developed The Village Vitality Program. The Vitality Program uses a similar assessment process and has expanded services and programming used by residents, family members and healthcare professionals to help maintain resident independence and improve quality of life.

Dr. Campbell approached The Village two years ago to conduct research on social spaces for seniors: "The Enhanced Independent Living Development Study: Informing a New Housing Solution for Aging in Place in a Planned Retirement Community." Her research sparked an interest for me; specifically the research that shows how inadequate social interaction can negatively affect retirement community residents' health.

Dr. Campbell's research has been extremely beneficial to The Village and Santa Fe Healthcare. Her research inspired us to examine our current social spaces at The Village to maximize our residents' quality of life. We are currently in the process of designing a



new social space, a Village Coffee/library/store called Center point based on "third place principles" for our residents.

Throughout the process of assisting Dr. Campbell in her research at The Village; my interest in environmental gerontology grew to the point that I felt compelled to further my knowledge and enroll in the University of Florida's PhD DCP program. Dr. Campbell has served as a mentor in my PhD journey. This semester was my first class with her as a professor. Her knowledge and expertise is evident in her teaching. Not only has my academic experience has been enhanced through the research partnership with Dr. Campbell, but The Village has benefited greatly from her research.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. Antonucci Jr.', is written over the 'Kind regards,' text.

James A. Antonucci Jr. MBA, LNHA
Executive Director
North Florida Retirement Village