Dear Dr. Raju,

Please accept our manuscript titled “ Benefits of Informal Learning Environments: A Focused Examination of STEM-based Informal Learning Environments”. This study presents emergent themes that were a result of five (5) focus group interviews conducted with Mathematics, Engineering, Science, and Achievement (MESA) high school students in the state of California. This article will inform other informal learning environments and formal learning environments as to the aspect of MESA that are beneficial to students.

In submitting this case to the *Journal of STEM Education: Innovations and Research* for widespread distribution in print and electronic media, I (we) certify that it is original work based on real events in a real organization. It has not been published and is not under review elsewhere. Copyright holders have given permission for the use of any material not permitted by the 'Fair Use Doctrine.' The host organization has signed a release authorizing the publication of all information with understandings of confidentiality.

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