



TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN

I discovered The MY HERO Project in 2004 at the International Education And Resource network (iEARN) conference that took place in Slovakia. The Director of MY HERO was in Slovakia to promote access to MY HERO's digital story telling tools and library and the integration of media production in education. I decided then to participate with my students, to give them access to the online resources available on MY HERO's media library and also to help them get a sense of work being created and shared on MY HERO by other teachers and students around world. We would together embark on this journey to be inspired by the examples of thousands of heroes that are celebrated on this ever-growing internet library. Learning about MY HERO at this educational conference gave me so much more than I was even looking for at that time to enrich learning for MY HERO students.

Jeanne Meyers, the director of MY HERO saw great promise and potential in a collaboration with me and my students, and encouraged us to participate in the project. As a young African English teacher - I was at that time, madly drawn by anything that was linked to ICT. Over the years this collaboration has positively changed my life and that of my students. We have gained knowledge in media production and critical thinking skills; we have won prizes for our films. We have developed a sense of understanding and ownership of the UN millennium development goals. Gradually my students have become international citizens who care about Climate Change, and human rights. They have become future heroes dedicated to protecting and caring for one another and the environment and demonstrating with media their success.

I certainly have seen my students grow and I also have been constantly improving my professional and personal development through the collaboration with The MY HERO project. In 2008 the project initiated the Global Exchange (GX) project funded by the US State Department with Senegal and five other countries around the world including Belarus, Kosovo, Macedonia and Jordan. With this GX program the MY HERO project impacted the lives of thousands of people, mainly teachers and students but also people from all walks of life. MY HERO not only sent computers and other media educational resources like cameras and microphones etc. but they also sent in media arts educators - Skip Blumberg and Antonio Mendoza to train youth and teachers in media production and how to better use the educational resources online library of The MY HERO Project.

The MY HERO Project is a FREE online project that really helps students and teachers grow and reach their potential, helping them develop media skills and an understanding of the many ways that each one of us can make a positive difference in the world.

I highly recommend The MY HERO Project for this special award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheikh Darou Seck  
Principal El Hadji Ibrahima Thiaw  
Middle school of Parcelles, Dakar