



Kennedy Krieger Institute

*A comprehensive
resource for children
with disabilities*

December 11, 2023

To The Downtown Sailing Center:

I am writing to express my appreciation for our collaborative journey, which has already yielded remarkable results. Our partnership between the Kennedy Krieger Institute's virtual sailing simulator study and the Downtown Sailing Center embodies shared values and a commitment to enhancing accessibility and inclusivity in the world of sailing. I'm immensely satisfied with the positive impact we've collectively made on the lives of individuals in the Baltimore community.

The alignment of our initiatives has been nothing short of extraordinary. The introduction of the virtual sailing simulator, as part of my study, has provided individuals, especially those with spinal cord injuries, with a groundbreaking avenue to experience the wonders of sailing. This innovative approach perfectly complements the Downtown Sailing Center's mission to promote inclusivity and make sailing accessible to individuals of all abilities.

The outcomes of our collaboration have been nothing short of inspiring:

1. Enhanced Accessibility: The virtual sailing simulator has served as an exceptional tool to enhance accessibility. Individuals who may have faced barriers to traditional sailing experiences can now engage with sailing in a virtual environment, breaking down the barriers that once limited their participation.
2. Skill Development: Participants have been able to develop sailing skills and safety knowledge in a controlled and supportive setting. This has translated into increased confidence and readiness as they transition to real-life sailing experiences provided by the Downtown Sailing Center.
3. Complementary Programs: Our programs have seamlessly complemented each other. Participants have seamlessly transitioned from the virtual sailing simulator to the exhilaration of real-life sailing under the guidance of the Downtown Sailing Center, resulting in a holistic and enriching sailing experience.
4. Research and Knowledge: Our collaboration will continue to yield valuable research insights that benefit both organizations. The research conducted within the virtual sailing simulator study has informed best practices and enriched the programs offered by the Downtown Sailing Center.
5. Community Engagement: We have ignited a spark of enthusiasm for sailing within the community. The virtual sailing simulator study has generated interest and inspired individuals to explore the joys of sailing, leading to increased participation in the Downtown Sailing Center's programs. Including drawing a Doctoral Student from the University of Michigan to conduct a Pilot Study at the Downtown Sailing Center.
6. Awareness and Support: Our partnership has raised awareness about the importance of accessible sailing. It has attracted support from individuals and organizations who share our

commitment to promoting inclusivity and making recreational activities accessible to all.

I want to thank the Downtown Sailing Center team for their unwavering dedication and collaboration. The impact on Baltimore residents has been profound, and I eagerly anticipate our continued partnership. Our collaboration embodies the remarkable outcomes achievable through a shared vision. I look forward to the future, where we will undoubtedly continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for your commitment to inclusivity and the joy of sailing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Recio" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Albert Recio, MD, PT
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