

Trib Total Media "Outstanding Young Citizen" Award
Elite Top 100 Scholarship Committee

February 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the opportunity to work with Ashton Stiles for two academic years (2017 - 2019) as a student in my first-year Chemistry and second-year College in High School Chemistry courses at the Blairsville High School. From my personal experience with her, I can express that Ashton is a student who values high achievement in her coursework and in her non-academic activities. In order to gain content proficiency, desirable grades, and my respect, she demonstrated attentiveness to our course lessons and compliance with assignment directives.

The academic expectations at Blairsville High School, specifically regarding those in an advanced science classroom, can be quite demanding. Ashton fulfilled those expectations while maintaining a calm disposition. Regardless of the task within each lesson, she demonstrated a commitment to remaining organized and task-oriented. During interactive presentations and class discussions, Ashton was willing to volunteer her insightful thoughts or ask clarifying questions about the material being covered. When completing laboratory investigations or class activities, Ashton collaborated with her partners to offer content-appropriate responses and conclusions. She developed a meaningful understanding of scientific concepts and applied that knowledge toward logically solving problems. Having these traits as a young woman indicates that she will continue such responsible and productive habits throughout her scholastic career.

In addition to showing a desire to achieve her own academic success, Ashton is also a bold and well-respected peer leader in our high school. Ashton was always very willing to offer support to her classmates, understanding that one of the best ways to reinforce knowledge within herself is to explain it to someone else. She was quite efficient when working independently, and cooperative when working within any type of group or partnership. I feel fortunate to have worked with a student who was willing to assist me in carrying out the mission of our science department and the district.

Outside of the classroom, Ashton consistently participates in numerous extra-curricular activities and organizations. Ashton has continually developed her performance skills as a competition majorette, including solo twirling, and has been awarded with such honors as being named the 2017 Novice (13-15) North Atlantic Pageant Winner. For quite some time, she has participated in the Southern Dairy 4-H Club, acting as President for several years (2015-2020). Additionally, Ashton inspires younger peers by mentoring the less senior 4-H members. Moreover, Ashton has taken an active role in student government, acting as President of her graduating class and as a member of Student Council. Perhaps the most unique and pervasive qualities that Ashton exhibits are her deeply rooted motivation and passion for promoting agricultural sciences. As evidenced by the fact that she has contended in and won several pageant titles, including Indiana County Dairy Miss, Indiana County Dairy Maid, Indiana County Fair Queen, and National Guernsey Princess, it is clear that she strives to be an outspoken advocate for the agricultural industry.

Since her classmates, my fellow co-workers, and I hold her in high esteem, I sincerely recommend that Ashton Stiles be considered for receipt of the Elite Top 100 Scholarship so that she may continue a path of academic accomplishment and significant contribution to society.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura L. Goodnack, BS, MAT

Instructor of Chemistry, Blairsville High School

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