

Dear Directors of the Scholarship Committee,

It is my honor to write this recommendation for Brenna Callahan. I have known Brenna for her entire career at Leechburg: as her basketball coach to a talented student in the Social Science department. Brenna is a hard working, intelligent student and those qualities are amplified in the classroom because of her sincere love of learning and the drive to be the best person she can be. I have spent **417 hours** (3years) in the classroom as her teacher for 12th Honors College Accredited POD, 11th Honors College Accredited World Cultures Class and Civics 8 therefore I can attest to her academic excellence, her strong leadership skills, outstanding character and zest for learning.

Academic excellence would describe Brenna's performances in my classes and her unquenchable desire to learn is still very much a part of her personality in her senior year at Leechburg. I was very much impressed with Brenna's effervescent personality, her enthusiasm to learn, and the effort she always demonstrates. Brenna's essay writings demonstrate superior writing skills, understanding, and empathy. Her ability to interpret the significance of highly complex readings is excellent. Some of her readings included the Pulitzer Prize Winners Gun, Germs & Steel Fates of Human Societies by Jared Diamond, Arab & Jew by David Shipler and Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes. She authenticated her understanding with logical and eloquent debates on these readings along with the topics of Immigration, death penalty, African Conflict Minerals, Voting Age, Confederate Flag ---there will be many more valued topics in our future together. As a member of F.R.O.G (---a grassroots movement of students who take action on the world's issues in which she is a Founding Mother) Brenna communicated effectively with the world. She is a "standout" student at Leechburg High School.

Brenna's leadership and character skills were constantly on display in my classroom and in the school. She took charge in our small group discussions, acted as a facilitator in our large group interactions and has led many full classroom discussions with intelligence and respect for all involved. Her leadership skills were also demonstrated by the many organizations she was not only a member of but also the leader: she was 1 of 2 students selected in the whole school to go to the World Affairs Conference, officer in student council, Junior Class vice president, leader of a playoff bound volleyball team. **We have sent only 2 students from Leechburg to the Governor's School in my 22 years of teaching: Brenna and the other went on to have a very successful career at Georgetown University---I believe Brenna is of the same elite caliber.**

If any student I have taught deserves praise for her academic work, leadership skills and outstanding character it would be Brenna. I have also had the pleasure of teaching her younger sister (Olivia) and knowing her parents. **Once you have met the Callahan family you know Brenna is a good investment.** I have witnessed Brenna's love and respect for her family and her willingness to be a helpful family member. The love and warmth Brenna shares with her family she also exudes to the community and to the world. Brenna has volunteered many hours in our community. She is the ideal student; she is not only intelligent but also a joy to be around. I would like to give Brenna Callahan my highest recommendation.. Please contact me if you have any questions about Brenna.

Mr. Damian D. Davies

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