



March 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend, with great enthusiasm, Daevan Mangalmurti for the scholarship opportunity offered by your organization.

It is not often in a teaching career that one encounters a student with the breadth and depth of abilities, academic and beyond, as those consistently exhibited by Daevan. Not only is he a unique high school student who demonstrates incredible and intuitive curiosity, motivation, and insight, but he is indeed a truly unique individual the likes of which are so very rare. One need only have a conversation with him to understand that he is incredibly well-read and thoroughly informed on an incalculable number of issues and topics. His interests are broad, reaching far beyond even the most rigorous school curriculum, and encompass social, political, and community issues, many of which he has singlehandedly brought into our school community to foster discussion and expose peers to issues that affect all of us.

My experience with Daevan is as his school librarian and research methodology teacher. The student’s goal in our International Baccalaureate research class is to produce an original, analytical essay based on the student’s interest. Daevan’s 4,000-word essay, entitled, “The Caste System and Indian Immigration to the United States,” asked the question, to what extent is the caste system a primary factor in the success of Indians in the United States? Daevan’s essay was by far one of the top five essays I have read in my twelve semesters teaching this class. His ability to analyze issues of history, economics, and social context and translate that analysis into writing was extraordinary.

Daevan’s talents go well beyond research, analysis, and writing. While he exceeds all expectations in these areas, it is the work he does beyond the classroom that so impresses me (and “work” is an inadequate term to describe what appears to me to be Daevan’s insatiable curiosity to pursue areas that are of interest to him and share what he believes should be of interest to all in our school community). He is a student leader in the truest sense of the term, seeking to enrich and enhance his peers’ exposure and experiences. Most significantly, Daevan initiated the development of a speaker series, inviting notable local and regional individuals to visit with Obama students, ranging from politicians and community activists to authors and scientists. This is just one of the many activities in which Daevan demonstrates his abilities to plan, communicate, and organize an ambitious and valuable program while appearing to thoroughly enjoy the tasks and details involved in spearheading and implementing an initiative, all while maintaining excellent grades.

In our discussions on topics that cover society, culture, race, education, and more, Daevan demonstrates an uncanny ability to understand nuances that most adults overlook. He is curious, open-minded, and empathetic. He is one of the most well-read individuals I know, student and adult alike, and truly, truly appreciates the value of education and life-long learning. He is mature beyond his years, and he has goals for himself that I have no doubt he will achieve and surpass.

In conclusion, I cannot overstate Daevan’s excellence; he is a star, an outstanding individual who will thrive at in any and every endeavor he pursues, and, I assure you, he is abundantly deserving of your scholarship opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Annette Prezioso, MLIS, NBCT
Librarian
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of International Studies

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