

March 9, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regard to one of your candidates for your Outstanding Young Citizen scholarship - Kristen Vigna. In the four years that I have known the candidate, she has personified the characteristics that define your scholarship: leadership, integrity, connection to community, and academic excellence. She is an incredible young woman with a bright future ahead of her. I believe whole heartedly that she is beyond worthy of this scholarship.

From the day I met her, Kristen has always been one of the hardest workers that I know. As her varsity rowing coach, I am constantly amazed by her time management, commitment, and positive outlook. As a former student athlete, I understand that it isn't easy to balance academics, athletics, community engagement, and music as a high school student. While other kids her age may be intimidated by a hectic schedule, Kristen embraces it with a smile. Not only is she continuously one of our team's top performing athletes, but one of our top performing students and musicians as well. It has been incredible to watch her grow and learn in all these different roles throughout her high school career.

Kristen is also an incredible leader. It has been a joy watching her step into this position. Once a quiet member of our squad, she is now one of our go to's for advice, comfort, and guidance. She has held the title of "captain" for two years now, but I think she understands that people respect titles such as "teammate," "partner," and "friend" more. She humbly leads by example, showing younger members of the team that you must do your work – and do it to the best of your abilities – to get where you want to be. She challenges her teammates to push themselves not only athletically, but mentally as well. She is full of encouragement and is always trying to help people see their full potential – even when they don't see it in themselves. As a coach, there is not better feeling than seeing your team create a culture of love and commitment to themselves and to the goals that they collectively set. Kristen is at the heart of that culture, and she will be dearly missed next year.

One last point I'd like to make about Kristen is that she is a dreamer. When she first told me that she wanted to work for NASA designing rockets and satellites, I wished her good luck. So many kids have lofty goals like this, and many never end up following through with them. They quietly accept a normal life and leave their big dreams behind. However, as I have got to know Kristen over the years, I have realized that there is no holding her back. She is a dreamer, but she is also a doer. While others may let go of their dreams, she is working tirelessly to make sure that her dreams come true. She is relentless in the pursuit of what makes her happy, and I respect her so much for that. Through this scholarship, she can continue her studies and ensure that she gains access to the best resources to help her succeed. Kristen is not one to take an opportunity for granted, and if you give her the chance, I know that she will continue to amaze us. With Kristen, the sky is never the limit. There is a whole galaxy out there full of potential.

I hope that you will consider Kristen strongly for this scholarship. She is an amazing young lady, and through your assistance I really feel that she can make a positive impact on this world. If you have

any questions or need to contact me, you can reach me via email at sheastings@yahoo.com or by phone at 412-855-5738.

Thank you,

Sarah Heastings