

Outstanding Young Citizen Program
c/o Trib Total Media
210 Wood Street
Tarentum, PA 15084

Wednesday March 6, 2019

Dear Members of the Outstanding Young Citizen Program Scholarship Committee,

I am extremely honored to be able to recommend to you Ms. Jessica Hervol for consideration as a recipient of the Outstanding Young Citizen Program Scholarship. I have known Jessica for over three years, and her energy, inquisitiveness, and incredible intelligence was something I looked forward to every day. Few students in my career have been so exceptional.

As a former student in both my AP and Honors World History classes, and honored by Trib Total Media as a member of 2019's Elite Top 100, Jessica was without peer. Her keen interest, extensive knowledge, and passion for history, political science, and world affairs not only made her an ideal student, she made me a better teacher. A student of Jessica's caliber provided a welcome challenge, for every question raised or answer given was well reasoned, insightful, and thoughtful. Her written, verbal, and technological communications abilities were outstanding, as were her abilities to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information. Able to work independently or as a member of a team, Jessica's research methodology and finished products were absolutely superior, reflecting her mature and conscientious attitude towards scholarship. Besides her brilliant mind, what I have always admired most about Jessica was her willingness to embrace the challenge of taking courses like AP World History, a class which was out of her science/math/STEM comfort zone, and immerse herself in the material until she was truly distinguished.

The epitome of a well rounded and engaged young woman, Jessica is a scholar, an athlete, and an active citizen. Her extensive and impressive resume includes being ranked in the top five of her class (out of nearly 450 students) and earning membership in both the National Honors Society and the National Science Honors Society. She has been a member of the Hempfield STEM Literacy program since its inception and she has competed on the Mathletes Team since her Junior year. Her intense course load has included eight AP classes and ten Honors level classes, preparing her well for the rigors of any of our finest academic institutions.

Jessica has also distinguished herself outside the classroom through her service to her classmates and to our school. An active member of Student Council, Jessica's leadership has helped make our Red Cross Blood Drives the largest in Westmoreland County; through NHS she peer tutors classmates in math and science; and because of the enormous respect our faculty has for her, Jessica was chosen to be trained as a Peer Mediator, leading classmates in conflict resolution strategies. As an athlete, Jessica helped lead our 2017-18 Girl's Swim team to a Section Championship, and this fall, she was the Captain of our Girl's Cross Country team.

In everything she does, Jessica is courteous, conscientious, and professional. Her academic record, as well as her involvement and leadership in school and in our community, are truly paradigms for America's youth. I firmly believe that Jessica's stewardship and good citizenship make her an outstanding representative of our nation's future.

For years I have written letters of recommendation for former students of mine to attend some of the finest schools in the country or compete for prestigious scholarships, and without question or hesitation, I consider Jessica to be among the very best intellectually. But perhaps more important than pure intellect, Jessica is a young woman of extraordinary character and high ideals, making her one of the finest young persons I have ever had the honor of teaching. I know Jessica will uphold the finest traditions of the Outstanding Young Citizen Program Scholarship and that she will be an outstanding addition to your list of worthy recipients.

Yours most respectfully,

William G. Soff
Teacher, AP and Honors World History
Hempfield Area High School
4345 Route 136, Greensburg, PA 15601
soffb@hasdpa.net