

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Please accept this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mikey Whirlow as a candidate for the Outstanding Young Citizen Scholarship. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mikey, both in and out of the classroom, for the past ten years. In that time I have personally witnessed a number of qualities that I feel make him an outstanding candidate for your scholarship.

As a student, his thoughtful, dedicated approach to whatever is placed before him has brought him a tremendous amount of success. As Mikey's AP English Language And Composition instructor I witnessed first-hand a young man who not only wanted to learn and grow, but also someone willing to work harder than anyone else in order to achieve that success. In the very demanding, and competitive world of the AP classroom, Mikey's ability to personally thrive while also building relationships with his classmates and instructors has earned him the respect of anyone who has worked with him.

As a member of the Hempfield community, Mikey's contributions and impact have not only been felt in the classroom, but also on the stage, and in the swimming pool. For the past three years I was also Mikey's high school director in three major stage productions. His interpretation of characters such as Murray in *The Odd Couple*, Thomas Putnam in Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, and finally, as Tito Merelli in our most recent production, the comedy, *Lend Me A Tenor*. In each case, Mikey's dedication to his craft, his willingness to accept direction and sometimes criticism, and his ability to perform at an artistic level have brought him deserved success, and admiration. As a member of our aqua club and high school swim teams, Mikey has found individual success as a WPIAL qualifying swimmer, and as Captain of a Section Championship team.

I feel very fortunate to have known Mikey in so many different ways. From the classroom, to the stage, and in the pool, Mikey Whirlow has taken every opportunity given to him and found not only success but the satisfaction that goes with giving everything you have to achieve the things you desire. What Mikey deserves now is the opportunity to take what he has learned and achieved and apply them to the experiences that only a college campus can offer. Your scholarship will help provide him with that opportunity. What he will receive is outstanding education. What you will receive in return for your "investment" is a young man of limitless potential, and superior integrity. I give him my highest recommendation.

James G Steeley  
AP English Language And Composition Instructor  
English Department Chairman  
Hempfield Area Senior High School