Colleen Katz Highlands High School 1500 Pacific Avenue Natrona Heights, PA 15065

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Marissa Callender for the Outstanding Young Citizen Trib Total Media Scholarship. I have known Marissa for about a year and a half and had her as a student in AP Language and Composition in eleventh grade, along with working with her on prom committee, as I am the junior class sponsor. I can speak to her impressive academic prowess but also her philanthropic nature.

Clearly a glance at her transcript will reveal an outstanding grade point average, along with a rigorous course-load. I have seen few students challenge themselves to the level that Marissa has, not only for the sake of an impressive transcript but also for the true value of learning. I know that her passions lie in the math and sciences, however she took on every other content with the same earnestness and willingness. It was clear that she took something away from every course, seeing some value in it. To me, this is indicative of a lifelong learner, someone who values education and does not simply see it as a means to an end, but rather a stepping stone. Her behavior in class was one of a leader as well as a learner. She participated to the fullest and set an example while still asking questions and learning from her mistakes. At this level, what separates students to me is not their grades, but their attitudes.

As far as attitudes go, Marissa is one of the kindest students I have ever met. She gives greatly of her time to a number of organizations to help others both in her school and in her community. She is a role model and a leader. Marissa has motivated others through being an example of modesty and integrity. She draws some of her recent strength from adversity presented in her junior year - although devastating, it has further enhanced who she is and forged a path for her future. Marissa has left and impression on her school and community, and I firmly feel she will equally impact any college campus.

I recommend Marissa with extreme confidence. Academically, she flourishes, and uses her strengths and achievements to benefit not only herself, but her peers as well. She also continues to contribute to her community and enhance it exponentially. It is with great pleasure that I recommend her for this scholarship.

Any further questions can be answered at the contact points below.

Sincerely,

Colleen Katz

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