

Monday, January 17, 2017

Desert News/ KSL Broadcast Group  
Sterling Scholars Awards Program  
55 North 300 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84145  
PO Box 45654

Dear Sterling Scholar Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Maria Chavez to you for this prestigious honor. Maria is a senior at the Academy for Math, Engineering, and Science, AMES. I believe she is precisely the type of student your organization seeks to find and recognize. As a teacher at an early college high school, I am asked to write a lot of letters recommending students for scholarships or college admissions. Unfortunately sometimes the letters begin to all feel the same. I don't want that to happen in this letter because Maria truly is an amazing student and person. It is my hope that this letter reflects the profound admiration she has earned not only from myself, but from the entire faculty. I have been both her teacher and advisor, and I do not hesitate to say that she has been one of the most amazing students I have encountered during my tenure as a teacher.

It can be difficult for students at AMES to distinguish themselves from their impressive peer group, but that is precisely what Maria has done. She currently ranks first in her class. Her transcript is beyond extraordinary, but it does not tell her full story. She is unique and special because she has sought out and achieved success beyond what we offer at AMES. Her achievements in French are an example of this. AMES does not offer French, but that didn't stop Maria from finding a way to learn. She is driven by her goal to travel the world and work with charities. She knows that learning as many languages as possible will open doors for her. In ninth grade she was memorizing French poetry and her passion and skills have only grown from there.

Maria is a focused student. She has many demands on her time from school and extra-curricular activities and yet she is always dependable. She has been an active participant in orchestra during her time at AMES. This means she is often required to arrive at school before 6:00 AM and stay late. She has also excelled at figure skating, an activity she has been doing since she was 7. Even though both of these extra-curricular activities require immense dedication and time, Maria has

always found ways to prioritize her education. Her GPA is extremely impressive, but her participation and classroom behavior are equally impressive. She takes ownership and initiative for her own learning, and I could always depend on her to come to class prepared.

Maria's inviting personality makes it easy for her to interact with others. She is comfortable leading group activities, but she is also willing to take instruction and criticism from others. Whenever I had a student who was struggling to fit in, I knew I could pair him/her with Maria, and that she would make him/her feel a part of the group.

One of the most impressive things about Maria is the content of her character. If I had to sum up her character in one word, the word I would chose is integrity. She maintains high standards for herself, and she refuses to do anything to compromise those standards. A natural outgrowth of this integrity is that she inspires those around her to be better.

I am thrilled to recommend Maria Chavez to you. If she doesn't meet the requirements of what you are looking for than I truly don't know of anyone who could. She is precisely the type of person who deserves to be recognized because of her achievements. I give her my highest recommendation, and I hope you will give her serious consideration as a Sterling Scholar.

Sincerely,

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