



GREAT OAK HIGH SCHOOL

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It is with great pleasure I write this character letter of recommendation for Kiana Beam.

Kiana is a student on my counselor caseload at Great Oak High School who I have come to know as her Counselor and through her involvement in an academically challenging breath of coursework at Great Oak High School, including participating in wellness based activities in Competitive Mountain Biking where she has demonstrated leadership as Captain since her junior year when the club was started. Words to describe her would be very intelligent, clever, driven, and optimistic; wellness balanced through athleticism, hopeful, creative, passionate, a great communicator, reflective and culturally aware.

Kiana works very well with other students, teachers, administrators, and parents. This can be seen through her participation in various clubs and leadership positions on and off campus: Peer Leader and Peer Leader Council Member (Leader of Freshman Meeting Place), Writer and Copy Editor for The Great Oak Gazette, and Captain of The Mountain Bike Club. Her responsibilities have included working collaboratively with other Peer Leaders to aid incoming freshmen and feeder schools at the elementary and middle school level. She is instrumental in a leadership capacity as she sits on the council for Peer Leaders. In Peer Leaders, with the role as a Council Member, she has helped to lead her committee, Freshman Meeting Place (FMP). She writes and teaches lesson plans for 9th graders, including outreach activities to middle schools to teach incoming classes valuable skills in leadership and self-regulation of behaviors and interactions.

Interestingly enough, this experience has helped her strengthen her passion for English, writing and reading, all of which she has an interest in studying in college. Moreover, she was an instrumental leader in our recent Every 15 Minutes program, which is a Drug and Drinking Awareness campaign designed to not only educate our student body and staff about the negative effects of drinking and driving, but also inform the community and surrounding areas. As usual, her responsibilities were centered heavily within the involvement arena as she was responsible for creating educational lessons, via her Peer Leader Position, for every classroom where underclassmen students saw an actual video feed of the event. To add to this, she was one of the actual victims of the 'accident scene' and was air lifted to a local hospital. Indeed, she was multifaceted in her abilities and involvement in this program while educating fellow students, staff, and community

members alike. Her abilities and strengths to unite, connect, and educate are superior and advanced well beyond her years.

As noted, she has also recognized the important aspects of athletics where she has been involved participating as a natural leader as Captain of The Mountain Bike Club. This has created a stabilizing force for discipline in her everyday life and contributed to her success. Within this capacity, she has lead in many aspects of her time at Great Oak High School, but also molded her leadership skill base as a leader and collaborator with others. As a captain, she has had to focus on improving the communication and relationship of the whole team. Not only does she act as a role model for her fellow riders, but strives to make the team more cohesive. Even as an Editor for the Great Oak Gazette, she has to review her peers' work and make suggestions in order to maintain a strong newspaper. Indeed, she is a natural leader who has demonstrated her unique abilities in working with various individuals.

Kiana is a student who has great potential and determination to succeed. Holistically, this young lady has so much more to offer than academic ability. She is a well-adjusted person who is very culturally in-tune to her place in the world while respecting the views and opinions of others around her. She has researched post-secondary institutions that would afford her the opportunity to pursue a major in English, Journalism, or Creative Writing. Her outgoing yet respectful personality, intelligence, confidence, drive, compassion for others, cultural insight, understanding in helping others, and intellectual curiosity for learning make her overall character superior rich in many fantastic personality traits.

Sincerely,

Richard Sypniewski
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