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To the Mark Matthews Buffalo Soldier Scholarship Committee,

It is with pleasure that I recommend **Diana Martinez** for the **Mark Matthews Buffalo Soldier Scholarship Committee**. I have known Diana for three years as a student in my Honors Precalculus and Advanced Placement Statistics class. She has also served as a Junior Marshal, which accounts for the top 10% of the 2016-2017 school year based on grade point average. There are many desirable traits Diana possesses that makes her a strong candidate for this scholarship. The traits that jump out most are her work ethic, her ability to lead, and her commitment to her community as a JROTC cadet.

What jumps out first about Diana is her work ethic. She is a hard working student. In the classroom, she is always on-task, working on her assignments. She stays after school to receive extra help if she is falling behind or is having trouble with a concept. Diana’s work ethic does not allow barriers for her success. She works through difficulties and finds solutions to her problems. This work ethic helped propel her to the top of her class where she earned the title of Junior Marshal.

Outside of the classroom, Diana is also hardworking. Diana’s work ethic enables her to take on a number of responsibilities around the school and stay committed to making her community a better place. Many students attempt this but often have trouble juggling their academics with extracurricular activities. Diana does not have this problem. She is a three-year member of the Varsity girls’ soccer team, secretary of our school’s WakeUP program, and an award winning JROTC cadet. Her ability to stay organized and on top of her work is what makes her capable of having so many responsibilities. This bodes well for Diana’s success in a college environment because she will be able to take on numerous responsibilities without letting anything fall by the wayside.

Diana conducts herself with humility and grace. She is receptive to feedback and is always finding ways to improve. Many people are hesitant or unwilling to hear criticism because they believe it is an indictment on their character. Diana sees it as an opportunity. She seeks out feedback and applies it in order to better improve herself and her work. This trait will make her an asset anywhere she goes because she will learn quickly and conduct herself in a manner that makes any teacher, mentor, instructor, or coach proud.

Diana is a great candidate for the Mark Matthews Buffalo Soldier Scholarship. I believe she is a strong candidate that will make your organization proud. I would be glad to discuss Diana’s qualifications. I can be called at 732-439-1401 or e-mailed at [colleene.grosse@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:colleene.grosse@cms.k12.nc.us).

Thank you for your time,

Colleen E. Grosse