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To whom it may concern.

I am writing to you to give the highest recommendation to Kaitlyn Miller. Kaitlyn will be a part of the graduating class at Poway High School this June, and she has accomplished incredible things in her time here. In her four years, she has been an involved member of Poway’s FFA program (Future Farmers of America), while also participating in the Poway High School Emerald Brigade, and the Poway High School Winter Guard. It has been a privilege to work with Kaitlyn as her color guard coach, and I hope to convey the extent of her leadership skills and passion for this activity in this letter.

Kaitlyn and I met back in the summer of 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. I was hired on as the new Director of Color Guard at Poway, and the situation I inherited with the program was less than ideal. We had nine students in the color guard, as most students had dropped when courses moved to zoom, and Kaitlyn was one of the remaining members who stayed on. There is an endless amount of respect and appreciation I have for her tenacity and perseverance, as she emerged as a leader in the world of virtual learning. Kaitlyn worked endlessly with new members of the team in the virtual setting to ensure that they would have the best experience possible.

In Kaitlyn’s senior year, she was selected as a captain for the team, which is the highest leadership position we award within the program. Kaitlyn’s commitment to the color guard members of the Emerald Brigade, our marching band, made the transition back to in person color guard a smooth one. The team grew to seventeen members, and Kaitlyn made it possible for every member to feel welcomed and prepared coming back on to the field.

During our winter guard season, which we are currently competing in at the time this letter was written, Kaitlyn has continued to lead the team in a record-breaking season. The 2022 Poway High School Winter Guard has been dominating in their competitive class, as well as participating in a nationally adjudicated regional earlier this March. It is wild to think of where this team was, to where they are now, and Kaitlyn’s leadership has been essential in this growth. She is a compassionate leader, who is always the first to arrive and last to leave. She is the first to help her other teammates and encourages the highest level of excellence from herself and the people around her. It is admirable that she does this while also participating in other activities on campus and excelling academically.

I tell all my students that color guard is a microcosm of the real world. We are constantly pursuing excellence, while also acknowledging that there are going to be obstacles. We are constantly looking for perfection, while also acknowledging that we will fall short sometimes. We are constantly working towards our best selves so that we can grow with the team. I believe that Kaitlyn embodies all these lessons. Her compassion for her teammates, and the critters that she cares for make her a leader that the world needs right now. Whether she continues in a sport or performing art like color guard, or pursues genetics, or saves an endangered species, I know that she will do it with her whole heart, and I know that she will positively impact every single being she is around.

With all that in mind, I give Kaitlyn Miller my greatest recommendation. This letter only scratches the surface of who she is, and I hope that you will see fit to consider her in the highest regard.

Sincerely,

Alexander James Bolender

Director of Color Guard, Poway High School