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May 17, 2023

Dear colleagues:

I am honored to serve as a reference for Hannah Beaman. During the short time I have known Hannah, I have been impressed by her writing and research skills, her initiative and involvement, and her willingness to seek advice and help. I believe all these qualities make her an excellent candidate for a master's degree.

This past semester, Hannah took my online Materials and Methods of Research class, which focuses on creative writing. The major project for the course—a creative piece based on research—involves a great deal of independent thinking and decision-making based on the exigencies of the chosen topic and intended audience (rather than on a narrowly defined assignment prompt). Hannah fully demonstrated these characteristics, producing a beautifully written chapter for a historical fiction/fantasy novel, based on research about creatures from Japanese folklore and the last days of the samurai.

When Hannah had questions, she emailed me, and her responses to my questions and grading comments were thoughtful and showed a deep investment in and understanding of her own creative work. Although she has quite a bit of writing experience, she was humble and receptive to feedback from both her peers and me. In course discussions, Hannah impressed me with her friendly, encouraging, appropriately inquisitive interactions with classmates, especially during peer reviews. She also took the time to have a conversation about books with me in one of the discussions—something that I always invite but most students don't take me up on. While the conversation was fun, it also demonstrated Hannah's seriousness about improving her writing craft by reading excellent mentor texts.

I was delighted to find out that Hannah is planning to continue her education in a graduate program. I enjoyed working with her and am excited to see what comes next for her. She has the writing, research, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills to make an excellent graduate student. I am happy to recommend her, and I would be pleased to answer any further questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me by any of the methods listed at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tess Martinus

Online Adjunct Faculty

College of Arts and Sciences

Liberty University