

2/13/14

Dear Friends at the AWC,

My name is Blue Peetz and I am a teacher with Olympia High School. What follows is a letter of recommendation for Katie Gubbe – one of the most stellar people I have ever had the pleasure to work with as both a teacher and direct supervisor. I hope you will consider her for a scholarship from your organization. She is without question deserving.

I first began working with Katie in the summer of 2012. She was a participant in an employment training program developed by the non-profit organization GRuB and the New Market Vocational Skills Center. I served as program coordinator and supervisor. Katie worked alongside a crew of students on a small organic farm. Her primary responsibility was the maintenance and harvesting of fresh produce for the greater community. In doing this work, Katie always stood out. Her professionalism was an incredible asset and her passion for the work inspired others to do their best as well. She is a strong communicator, incredibly compassionate, and works well with people from diverse backgrounds. She also demonstrated an incredible work ethic – typically the first one in the field to work and the last one to leave.

Because of her performance and dedication, Katie was brought into our academic year program with a select, small team of students. Katie earned credits in Biology, American Studies, and Horticulture while helping lead work in the community that makes good food more accessible for all people. As part of the program, Katie gained experience in public speaking, educating children on local foods, and farm planning. One of her strongest accomplishments was testifying to the Washington State Senate Education Committee in support of efforts to expand GRuB-like programs to more regions in our state. Her vulnerability and courage were inspiring to all in attendance. In the end, \$105,000 in state funds was made available to expand programs in Olympia and Auburn. She has that kind of effect.

In the summer of 2013, I hired Katie on again to serve as a Peer Crew Leader on a new farm growing produce for the Olympia School District cafeterias. Katie effectively mentored new students, lead farm and team-building activities, and provided strong customer service for our neighborhood market stand. Again, Katie's dedication, work ethic, and emphasis on positive relationship building with everyone she worked with were true strengths.

I could say that Katie is a future leader in our world, but that wouldn't do her justice. She already is a leader in our community, she already is someone you can count on to complete tasks at high levels, and she already is someone that will make any business she works for better. She is a complete package and if I can gather funding for a job program this coming spring, I would hire her back without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Blue Peetz
Teacher – Olympia High School