



# Olympia High School

1302 North Street

Olympia, Washington 98501

Phone: 360 596-7000 Fax: 360 596-7001 Website: <http://olympia.osd.wednet.edu>

Patrick C. Murphy, Superintendent - Matthew H. Grant, Principal

Mick Hart, Asst. Principal - Andra Kelley Batstone, Asst. Principal - Lindsay Welsh, Asst. Principal - Gordon Chamberlain, Dean of Students

19 February 2018

AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship

Re: Julianna Hoza

This letter is to offer my strongest and most enthusiastic support to **Julianna Hoza's** application for the 2018 AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship. Julianna was my student in Honors Biology in grade 10, she is currently taking my Microbiology/Biotechnology class, and she has been a very active member and leader of the Earth Corps (our school's award-winning environmental club) all 4 years of high school. I am the club advisor. Despite my admitted bias in her favor, I will herein present an objective accounting of her worthiness.

Academically, Julianna is absolutely top caliber. She has taken a very broad spectrum of the most academically challenging courses at OHS, and she has aced every one of them with her customary aplomb. Moreover, it is very obvious to me that Julianna is far more concerned with learning than the majority of her high-achieving peers (who seem to emphasize grades). This aspect of Julianna – the student – is evident in her astute questions and obvious intellectual curiosity...biology in my case.

Julianna is also a 4-year member of our school's award winning band, which underscores her multidimensional talents and her unwavering work ethic. She not only supports local environmental stewardship, she also shares her musical talent.

I have especially been impressed with Julianna's passion for environmental issues and nature in general, as well as her "actions speak louder than words" approach. Our Earth Corps Club is involved in a number of activities and Julianna is front and center in every one of them. We do all of the recycling at Olympia High School with a weekly school-wide pickup. We also take care of the composting in the school lunchroom on a daily basis. This is not a pleasant job. It involves decontaminating compost and making sure students sort waste properly. Julianna does this for no class credit. This takes time away from her precious 30 minute/day lunch break. Earth Corps activities and projects are not limited to proper waste management. We are also involved in two different habitat restoration projects, one on campus and the other at the site of a former pasture overlooking Henderson Inlet. This girl is a worker. She seems to relish the opportunity to tackle invasive plant species and nurture the native plants that we install. Earlier this year, Julianna demonstrated her leadership with an effort to reduce the volume of plastic water bottles at our school, and spearheaded a project to provide custom-designed reusable water bottles at break-even prices to students and staff.

I am aware of Julianna's environmental activities outside of our club. She has personally organized an informal "hiking club" encouraging students to join her in hiking the beautiful trails in Western Washington. She has worked the past two summers in trail maintenance crews for Washington Trails Association and for the Student Conservation Association. A few weeks ago we were doing some trail work in an area that was washed out by a downpour this winter. Julianna was doing twice the work of others (myself included) who dwarf her in size, but not heart and determination.

Above all, Julianna is among the most pleasant and affable young ladies I have had the pleasure of knowing. She is kind to all and non-judgmental. She has earned the respect and trust of her peers, faculty, and administration at OHS, and is a dear friend to all of us fortunate enough to have gotten to know her. Her near constant smile is a testament to her very positive and upbeat attitude.

I've been teaching at OHS for 29 years, and with all things considered, I put Julianna Hoza in the top 5 all time. Really. I cannot imagine a more talented, hardworking, compassionate, and dedicated young person more deserving of recognition than her. Thus I very strongly encourage you to give your highest level of consideration to this awe-inspiring and charming young lady. After graduating from OHS in June with highest honors, Julianna will be attending Western Washington University this fall, and of course, she will be majoring in Environmental Science.

Very sincerely,

Edward N Bassett, M.S. [ebassett@osd.wednet.edu](mailto:ebassett@osd.wednet.edu)