



December 6th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Esmeralda Peralta-Aroz, I am currently the Youth Program Coordinator at Duncan Family Farms and I have known Miss Maria de Jesus Rizo since 2016. The goal of our youth program is to provide academic support and scholarships to deserving students; this includes employees' dependents and their extended family, all as a human resource benefit.

I first met Miss Rizo during an employee benefit orientation presentation. This young lady sat at the very front row with her father, who has worked for our company close to 10 years. I learned she comes from a first-generation family, and the youngest of overachieving siblings.

The earliest example of her leadership and determination came during one of our first one-on-one sessions. Miss Rizo had completed a career assessment; the first to submit and initiate a discussion with the online class. Her passion lies within the tech world and so I challenged her to look for opportunities within her community to learn more about possible careers in this field. She took on the initiative and called several non-profits, including a local innovation workspace where local entrepreneurs and creators collaborate. Though there weren't any opportunities at the time, I was impressed by her maturity level and drive to knock on every door to reach her goal.

Weeks later I came across an opportunity for a coding certificate program, and forwarded it to Miss Rizo. Not only did she complete and submit, she also spoke to the coding instructor on campus to learn more about additional resources on campus. Needless to say, Miss Rizo was accepted into the very competitive program, which she started the fall of 2018.

Currently Miss Rizo is co-enrolled in the certificate program while balancing Honors and Advanced Placement courses at her high school, as well as dual-enrollment through a Maricopa Community College. Though her days are long and does not get home until after 7:00pm in the evening, she still manages to maintain a 4.0 GPA in both programs and continues to complete service hours; currently working on getting to 300 hours.

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New Cuyama, CA 93254*

*Imperial Valley Farm
551 W Main Street # 4
Brawley, CA 92227*

For these reasons, I offer Miss Maria de Jesus a high recommendation. If you have any questions or would like to hear in more detail any of the examples mentioned above, feel free to contact me directly via email: education@duncanfamilyfarms.net.

Cordially,



Esmeralda Peralta-Aroz

Youth Program Coordinator

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