



Fulton-Montgomery  
Community College

August 4, 2017

To whom it may concern:

Yana Garipova is a 2015 graduate of Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FM) in Johnstown, N.Y., where we first met. I have known her for four years, and during that time I have seen her demonstrate maturity, professionalism, curiosity and a friendly demeanor.

Yana has an insatiable thirst for learning and successfully completed every mathematics course FM offers—including upper-level calculus and discrete math! The majority of FM's students are struggling with high school algebra by comparison.

She achieved this while studying in a second language, English, as Russian is her native tongue. But, impressively, she also studied French and German and learned some Japanese from the other international students on campus. We were introduced by the Director of International Recruiting so that I could practice my Russian, while she improved her English. She was constantly asking me if she was phrasing things correctly, and was precise about both her conversation and writing. But, what impressed me the most was her ability to understand humor and sarcasm in a foreign language—something students don't normally grasp for a long time. She was also awarded the English medal at FM—an honor that has never been bestowed on an international student before Yana.

I invited Yana to stay with my family during Thanksgiving and Christmas break, and for two weeks after the Spring semester ended, when the dorms had closed and she was awaiting her return flight home to Moscow. She was helpful, respectful and courteous and we were able to share cultural traditions with each other. She even asked me to teach her to drive and has earned her U.S. driver's license!

Yana is responsible and hardworking and will be successful at whatever she sets her mind toward pursuing. I highly recommend her for this position, and I'm happy to speak with you directly should you have further questions at (518) 669-9288.

Sincerely,

**Amy E. Tucker**

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