

Dear DCCBA Black Excellence Scholarship Committee:

My name is Marlinda Walcott. I am a Film & Television Post Supervisor with Haven Entertainment. I have worked in the Arts & Media industry for almost two decades in a variety of roles and in this time I have mentored many young Black artists; none however, as talented, accomplished and driven as Shailyn Pierre-Dixon. It is for this reason that I submit this letter of recommendation for your consideration.

I have known Shailyn Pierre-Dixon for the entirety of her life, first introduced as a friend of her Mother's. Over the years while watching her grow into an extraordinary young lady, we developed mutual respect and admiration. Upon her request for my mentorship, I happily accepted the opportunity to contribute to her artistic journey and have enjoyed this privilege for over 2 years.

At only 18 years old, Shailyn has accomplished more than most dream of. Not only has she been awarded for her exemplary talent as an Actress on a national stage, recognized and respected among my peers and other industry leaders, she has also proven to be of exemplary character. Since as young as 5yrs old, Shailyn has enthusiastically participated in community outreach programs, leadership programs, protests and charities, for which her passion and commitment have only grown. She is outspoken on issues of anti-Black racism, social justice, environmental justice, women's rights, and allyship for the LGBTQIA+ community. In addition to all this, Shailyn has been an Honour Roll student, awarded Track & Field athlete and Motivational Speaker for women and youth.

I have witnessed her resilience and strength in her personal life as well as her ambition and dedication in her academic and professional life. For all the accolades and praise, Shailyn's life has been filled with hardships, and yet, she has faced them with courage and optimism. Perhaps most impressively amid a long list of impressive attributes and accomplishments, it is Shailyn's kindness and joyful spirit that people admire the most. She has an innate ability to light up every space she inhabits and uplift every person she encounters. A co-star of hers once said the following, every word of which I wholeheartedly endorse, "It's hard not to have a connection with Shailyn. I don't know how one cannot feel the gravity of this young woman; it's impossible". - Aunjanue Ellis

It is for these reasons and many more that I strongly support and recommend Shailyn be honoured with the DCCBA Black Excellence Award.

Sincerely,



Marlinda Walcott

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