



U. E. P. SAN VICENTE DE PAÚL

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Maracaibo, January 20th 2020

Dear Admission Officer,


I met Sabrina several years before she became my student, when in 2008 I attended one of her first piano recitals. Even then, I was incredibly impressed by her talent. Later I would become her natural sciences and biology professor during her second (2015—2016) and senior (2018—2019) years in high school, respectively. Holding a B.Sc. in Biology Education from the University of Zulia in Venezuela, I have been a professor at the H. S. San Vicente de Paul in Maracaibo for the last forty-three years. It is in this context that I would like to assess the academic and personal qualities that make Sabrina I. Queipo among the top five students I have ever taught (among approximately 7,000 students) and probably the most intellectually capable.

Academically, Sabrina stands out from her peers because of her intelligence, willingness to learn, and time-management skills. She always came to class prepared and enthusiastic. It was clear from the beginning of each of the courses that she had a clear objective: to truly understand the material. Hence, she often asked insightful questions inside and outside of the classroom. In the two years that I was her teacher, she always delivered spot-on assignments, often handed in before the due date. This was the case even when she went to Peru for a month in January 2019 for mathematics Olympiad training. She obtained the best possible grades (20/20) in both the Natural Sciences and Biology courses. This performance was observed while also excelling in sports (a member/captain of the kickball varsity team) and music—all, incidentally, conducted with great poise. Sabrina ranked first in her class (1/101) and obtained excellent scores in science-related standardized tests—namely, SAT Mathematics II (800/800) and Physics (760/800). These achievements are more noteworthy considering that in our school, all classes are taught in Spanish, there are no SAT preparation courses, and she had a single shot at each of the tests because of time constraints in her application process.

Sabrina's most distinguishing personal trait may be her collaborative spirit. Indeed, she frequently assisted with the courses' bulletin boards and helped classmates. For example, in 2019 during the Biology course at the end of the second trimester, I asked Sabrina if she could tutor a new student (Paola) who was struggling with genetics and had failed the latest examination on the topic. Sabrina not only helped her without hesitation, preparing some lectures and exercises for her, but did not stop tutoring Paola until she started obtaining passing grades.

It is because of the above that I give my strongest recommendation of Sabrina I. Queipo in her application to the Computer Science/Statistics departments at your University. Especially given the unique alignment between the demanding curriculum and research opportunities at your University and her career goals and aspirations.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further information.


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