



April 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

In the time I've gotten to know Lake Tahoe Community College student I've learned about unique challenges she faces, and I believe she is an excellent candidate for the H.E.R.O award.

As a young girl, was adopted "from the streets of India" by an Ohio family that later adopted several other children from India and China. The family home-schooled and her siblings in an extremely strict, religious setting that prevented her from associating with anyone outside of their church. When she turned eighteen, she left Ohio for California, and has lost total contact with her adoptive parents. She has written letters to her siblings and parents asking to keep in touch, but to no avail.

.... parental abandonment could have been a hindrance to her academic progression, but she turned it into a very motivating factor. will be graduating this spring with a transfer degree in business and has been accepted to a private university to complete her baccalaureate degree. In these years at LTCC, has worked to support herself without familial assistance, has become engaged to be married, and has achieved a great deal of academic success. Her last quarter GPA was a strong 3.50.

I urge the committee to continue granting ... independent status. Despite the physical and emotional separation from her parents and siblings, has achieved remarkable success.

Sincerely,

Aaron Barnett

Counselor,

Lake Tahoe Community College