



March 16th, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I've had the distinct pleasure of getting to know Fatima Dominguez Ramirez these last two years. Fatima is a hard-working, intelligent young woman who will be graduating this June, and who has been accepted to every university she applied to. Fatima has decided to transfer to California State University, Los Angeles, as a Fire Science major. She studies full-time, works part-time, and maintains good grades.

The thing that sets Fatima apart from other applicants you'll review is that she is nearly an orphan. By saying "nearly", I mean her father is deceased and her mother is suffering from a second diagnosis of breast cancer. To complicate the issue, Fatima's mother remains in El Salvador, and Fatima hasn't been able to see her for several years. How Fatima manages to keep her strength is amazing! I can't imagine many other teenagers living on their own, managing school, work, and social obligations with such fierce resilience. Fatima is absolutely determined to make her life better, to succeed. Her resolve is remarkable.

Fatima's quiet, humble demeanor belies the fire she keeps inside. She will do everything she can to forge her path in this country, and to make a productive, admirable career for herself and her family. She graduated South Tahoe High with excellent grades that included AP credit, and immediately began her studies here at LTCC. Our office quickly recognized her skill set, and promptly offered her a position as our bilingual financial aid technician. Fatima is a valued member of our office staff.

I cannot think of anyone I'd rather award money to than Fatima Dominguez Ramirez. She embodies personal integrity, resilience, and grace under dire circumstances. She has my highest recommendation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Barnett", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Aaron Barnett
Counselor
Lake Tahoe Community College