



MIRACOSTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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4 April 2019

Dear NSLS Awards Committee,

I am writing to recommend with enthusiasm that Ms. Veronica Tingzon be considered for your Academic Excellence Award. I am writing this letter in my capacity as her professor at Mira Costa College, a dynamic and innovative junior college in Oceanside, California with over 13,000 students.

My interaction with Veronica began when I was her professor in a one semester, rigorous Human Physiology lab/lecture course that is designed for pre-nursing/health science students. Veronica was a joy to have in my course. She was energetic, engaged, thoughtful, organized and very intelligent. The material in this course is very demanding and requires exceptional organizational and time management skills to excel. It was clear that Veronica took this course extremely seriously and applied herself rigorously to the material. She also showed a particular (and understandable) interest in the materials' connection to clinical practice. Veronica was a key organizer of study and review groups and helped several other students do better in the course as well. As part of our frequent group activities, including her study groups, she consistently exhibited an easy-going, approachable manner with her fellow students and with me that made her very easy to talk with. Having a good attitude and working well in a team was important, as many of our laboratory activities involved using classmates as experimental subjects, and this is a valuable personal/professional skill that will serve her well as a nurse. Her public-speaking skills are excellent, as are her team-building and leadership abilities. Veronica demonstrated maturity, drive and a high degree of competence. It was evident from my frequent interactions with her in my course that she is very driven toward a clinical career. Veronica ended the semester in my course with a well-deserved A, and she absolutely earned it through her hard work.

I have remained in contact with Veronica after my course, and through my frequent engagement with our STEM Center at MiraCosta I was very much aware of her leadership in initiating review/strategy sessions that prepared prospective nursing students for their Nursing Test for Essential Skills (TEAS) exams. That Veronica did this is no surprise – it was merely a natural extension and expansion of what she was already doing with her peers in my course. She has had a huge impact on the career pathways of her peers! Veronica has demonstrated her energy, leadership and excellence repeatedly, and it is my sincere hope that she will be successful in receiving this prestigious award from NSLS.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Clark, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology

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