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To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to recommend Michelle Holland for the Orville Erickson Memorial Scholarships of the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Michelle was a student of mine in a first year Introduction to Cellular Biology course. I teach a wide variety of introductory and senior courses at MacEwan in Biological Sciences, and have done so for over 16 years. Our major is now the most popular major at the University and our classes fill within minutes.

Most first year students are plunged into an immense amount of material when taking a full course load. Michelle did very well in my course, which in itself stands out, as the course is far from easy. However, I believe Michelle's transcript can speak for itself. Here in I will comment on intangible qualities Michelle possesses that likely contribute to her success.

Michelle attended class regularly often arriving early. She contributed actively to answering or asking questions in class and often approached me after class with additional questions.

Michelle is a vibrant, energetic young scientist who has the drive to question and engage in discussion beyond the majority of her peers in class. She is very pleasant, enthusiastic, and always smiling which I looked forward to for each class. Her enthusiasm yet focused approach is likely one of the key characteristics to her success.

As part of my teaching approach I run an informal student mentoring program. I seek out students who did well in my courses and ask them to return to speak to my next cohort of students about their success. For this Winter 2017 term I choose Michelle to come speak to my biology class. Her passionate personality shines through in her communication and students connecting with students is an important part helping them succeed in their studies.

Your award, funded by private companies, invests in future conservation advocates. Likely it is not easy for your committee to choose between close applications having only the paperwork in front of you. I hope this gives you the missing pieces that would be present if you were to meet and actually interview Michelle.

Thank you for considering her application,



Dr. Ross Shaw