



Waukesha South High School

LEARNING, GROWING, SUCCEEDING • EVERY PERSON EVERY DAY

March 27, 2018

Dear Selection Committee:

With confidence I recommend Matt Held for the Citizens Bank Scholarship. Over the past four years, I have known Matt as a student in several of my business classes, as a three-year DECA Chapter President, and as one of my most respected Business Interns. Matt has proven that his initiative, honesty, and acceptance of responsibility have led him to success in school, in DECA, and in his workplace. I am confident that these traits will lead Matt to success in his future education as well.

Matt's initiative, integrity, and positive attitude have led to his success as a student and as an employee. While a student in five of my business classes, Matt was nothing but professional, prompt, and articulate with his work. He completed assignments on time, asked intriguing questions, and applied his knowledge to the real-world situations presented in class. Matt often served as a leader, helping others understand project requirements and collaborating with teammates to create a quality product. On a larger scale, Matt's GPA of 3.65 speaks volumes of his commitment to academics despite his heavy involvement in DECA, his Business Internship position, and the demands of the course he is currently taking at Carroll University.

Beyond the classroom, Matt has excelled in his Business Internship position for two years. While working, Matt has maintained a patient and positive attitude through episodes of employee shortages, angry customers, and employers with high expectations. Matt has trained new employees, withstood challenging work environments during a company renovation, and grown as a leader at his workplace. Matt's supervisor recently wrote on his evaluation, "I've seen clients get angry over bills and he keeps his composure and positive attitude throughout the transaction... He is always respectful and makes sure the customer is happy." While other students tire of challenge, Matt's integrity and attitude help him to overcome unique challenges.

Matt's entrepreneurial spirit and leadership skills have also contributed to his success as Waukesha South's DECA Chapter President. For the past three years, Matt has served as our DECA Chapter President. This year, as I took a 3-month leave from school, Matt has fully grown into his role and carried on the work of DECA in my absence. Not only does Matt motivate member involvement through electronic, paper, and in-person communications, but he also leads meetings, supports other DECA leaders, and proposes new ideas to grow our chapter's membership. For example, due to Matt's leadership skills, our annual Trick-or-Can event that benefits our local food pantry was executed successfully despite my absence this year. In addition, although Matt is an incredibly busy senior, he has taken on the new role of School Store Co-Manager. He has spent countless hours during his summer vacation and during the school year prepping products, devising promotion ideas such as a social media challenge and recruiting other DECA members to make our store a success. Matt's tireless dedication to DECA has been an asset to the chapter's successes.

For all of these reasons I highly recommend Matt Held for the Citizens Bank Scholarship. I am confident that Matt Held is amongst the most qualified candidates. He is a model citizen, student, and leader at school, in the workplace, and in the community. Matt humbly accepts challenges and continues to strive for success. His initiative, responsibility, entrepreneurial spirit and positive attitude are rare qualities for high school students, but these very qualities make Matt the independent and successful young man he is today. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions: kcortez@waukesha.k12.wi.us.

Sincerely,

Katie Cortez

Educator and DECA Advisor, Waukesha South High School