



March 13, 2015

**Re: Letter of Recommendation for Jocelyn Frierson**

Dear members of the admissions committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Jocelyn Frierson for the **Concurrent Preliminary Multiple Subject/Education Specialist credential program at Cal State San Marcos**. I initially knew Jocelyn as her instructor for our introductory research methods course in Fall of 2013. Given her exceptional performance in that class, I invited her to participate as both my peer tutor for that class and as a research assistant in my laboratory.

It was evident very quickly in the methods course that an understanding of the material came very easily and quickly for Jocelyn, which is often not the case for our students. She consistently not only scored higher than everyone else on exams, but significantly so. Perhaps even more impressive was Jocelyn's reaction to this position. She clearly jumped at the opportunity to help others in the class who were struggling, and did so in a very interpersonally skilled manner. She was humble, warm, and inviting, and crystal clear in her instruction. I practically begged her to be my peer tutor the following semester.

As a peer tutor, Jocelyn worked hard to help the students, holding office hours, organizing exam review sessions, creating study materials, and assisting me with assignment feedback. The students absolutely loved her and she received excellent ratings and comments on her student opinion questionnaires (materials, by the way, that she and her partner went out of their way to create and administer). Comments were of the nature of, "The best tutor EVER!!!" Even though she could not formally enroll in the peer tutor course for credit the following semester, she graciously agreed to help me with the course, which I really appreciated – particularly in light of her other responsibilities and activities (see below).

In addition to her work as a peer tutor, working in my lab, and being a resident hall advisor, Jocelyn's passion clearly lies in her advocacy work for individuals with disabilities. Our university chapter of Autism Speaks-U is perhaps the most active and passionate university club I have ever encountered. When the founder left last year, no one thought that this momentum could be carried forward. I was so pleased to hear that Jocelyn would be taking over as President. As Co-Director of our Center for Autism, I am very familiar with the great work she has done in this position, and we are grateful for all the support that this club has given the Center. Most notable to me was Jocelyn's involvement in organizing residence hall autism awareness events, putting on the very successful "End the R Word" rally, and her heavy involvement in community events such as the Walk for Autism Speaks and the Mardi Gras for Autism.

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Our laboratory currently conducts several studies examining emotion regulation and family process in children with autism and related disabilities. Jocelyn has been a valuable research assistant, helping with data administration and collection. Now in her second semester with our lab, Jocelyn is becoming reliable in an observational coding system for parent-child interaction, and has started to learn to administer the complicated neuropsychological and social-cognitive battery we perform on one of our studies. She is in the process of developing a scholarly project in our laboratory focused on the use of emotion regulation strategies and task persistence in children with autism spectrum disorders, and plans to submit this to an upcoming conference. Jocelyn is becoming one of our lead research assistants and my only complaint is that we will not be able to keep her for years and years.

When I encounter a student who is so incredibly passionate and active in a particular realm (for Jocelyn, this, to me, was advocacy), I am sometimes reluctant to offer other types of opportunities, because the student may not be able to commit to something that may reduce their involvement in their true calling. I've discovered that Jocelyn has multiple callings that she manages very effectively, each centering around her deep desire to teach and advocate for those in need.

Jocelyn is a truly remarkable student and will thrive in any graduate program that is fortunate enough to have her. She is bright, warm, friendly, and professional. Jocelyn is enthusiastic and focused in her endeavors, and follows through on everything to which she commits—a very difficult job given the number of positions she holds. She is extremely well liked by peers and a pleasure to have in class and our lab. She interacts in a warm and professional manner with children with disabilities and their families, and this seems to come naturally to her. I have to say though, that the most notable aspect of her character to me is that every activity in which she engages is clearly identified and performed by way of the deep, intrinsic kindness that she exudes.

It should be evident from my comments above that Jocelyn has my **very highest recommendation**. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any additional information should it be helpful.

Sincerely,



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