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Dear Admissions Committee,

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I am thrilled to be able to recommend Grace Fischer to your program. I had the pleasure of getting to know Grace in Iceland last summer during a New York Times Student Journeys trip with a Climate Change and Energy focus. As an instructor, I have worked with students of all backgrounds for over a decade. Grace is one of a handful of students that stands out because of her excellence in character. She has an unshakeable, positive attitude and is an extremely compassionate and genuine person.

In the expeditions I lead, I demand a lot from my students. I got to know Grace really well in the two weeks we spent traveling through Iceland. During our trip, she demonstrated how determined yet optimistic she can be throughout the most challenging moments.

Grace has one of the kindest hearts that shines through in everything she does - from building relationships with the other students to creating an outstanding final project. For her final project, Grace and her team built a well-researched and beautifully designed website about an invasive species in Iceland. She demonstrated a tremendous ability to excel on a project with a tight deadline, to work well within a group, and to give a memorable presentation at the end of our trip.

Grace has an outstanding academic record, but what really sets her apart is her dedication to making a positive impact on the world. She is an active volunteer of Pacific Marine Mammal Center and Homes for Hope, a nonprofit organization that builds homes for those in need in Mexico. Both her knowledge of and passion for marine mammal conservation was incredible to witness throughout the trip.

I am certain that the unique combination of Grace's ability to excel inside and outside the classroom, her kind personality, and her passion to create lasting impact sets her apart from other applicants. I strongly recommend Grace and am positive she will be an invaluable part of your program and will shine as she did in our time together in Iceland. Her positive attitude is contagious and should she be accepted into your program, you will be able to see first-hand what an incredible individual she is.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Carolyn Raider