

18 November 2018

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I can honestly say that I do not admire many people, especially those who are younger. I absolutely admire Justina Shaw, her maturity, her caring nature, and her impressive business accomplishments thus far. It is my pleasure and honor to recommend her for the Ph.D. Program at Stanford Graduate School of Business.

I met Justina Shaw in 2009 when she was working on her nonprofit, Opportunities-PA. Our relationship began with my volunteering with Opportunities-PA on a proposal. I found Justina to be very business-minded, professional, serious, and mature. I also found her to be a sincere and caring person who was passionate about helping others. Over these past almost 10 years, I have observed Justina move from an employee, to a nonprofit owner, to a business owner. She has the type of drive that wills her to move from one level to the next. She brings a unique mix of education and business acumen.

Again, our relationship began with my volunteer work and now I work part-time with her company, Just Act. Our relationship has blossomed into a comfortable working relationship as well as a friendship. Having just recently learned of the difficulties she endured during her childhood, I now fully comprehend why she turned into the dynamic force she is today.

Opportunities-PA “educates, equips, empowers, and encourages homeless and other at-risk youth to reach their academic potential and professional goals by offering them supportive services and stable housing”. This organization has helped countless young adults make the journey from homeless to self-sufficient. I observed Justina conduct business as well as plan and execute successful fundraising events. Justina is a leader. I believe she was a leader before Opportunities-PA was a reality.

Currently, we live in a world where many younger people seem to want fame and wealth handed to them. Justina Shaw has the stamina and ingenuity to work to obtain her perks and other opportunities. That work ethic is what she will bring to your program. That work ethic is what she used to create and staff Just Act. She has worked with various companies and organizations, including In-Kindness, Abayudaya Schools, FAEA, and Science Magazine. I have witnessed her work with FAEA and assisted with several projects. FAEA kept Justina involved in their work as well as their fundraising golf outing yearly event. She helped FAEA successfully raise funds to support schools globally. Justina has an impressive business mind and a level of commitment to her craft that I rarely see. An advanced degree could only improve her contributions.

I respect Justina’s decision to pursue a doctorate degree and am confident that she will be a valuable addition to Stanford’s Ph.D. program. Her business background and her drive to obtain this degree will assist her in developing further her already expansive skill set. She is without a

doubt an exceptional candidate and will not only benefit from the program, but the program will benefit from Justina's presence and knowledge. She has proven to have the perseverance, drive, intellectual abilities, and business mind necessary to complete an advanced graduate degree. I highly recommend her. If her performance in the business world is any indication of how she would perform as a student, her presence in your program would be extremely beneficial to all involved. Please feel free to contact me with questions or for more information.

Sincerely,

Edna P. Smith, MS, BA