

March 4, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am proud to highly recommend Alice Scott for Journalist of the Year. In my role as editorial director for the PBS NewsHour Student Reporting Labs, I have the privilege of working with hundreds of student journalists from across the country. Alice Scott stands out as one of the most talented among them.

I first met Alice during the summer of 2021, when Student Reporting Labs was hosting its annual summer journalism academy. In normal times, the academy is an all-expenses-paid trip for talented student journalists to come together and work with our team to produce video stories. Due to the pandemic, we had to make the 2021 event virtual. This meant Alice was logging in from home and working mostly on her own to produce her story.

Despite the challenges of working virtually over Zoom with our team and other students, Alice stood out as highly capable and talented. She produced a story about two transgender teens in Texas and how they've navigated their identities with support from their families. Alice's story was so well done it was later selected to air nationally on the PBS NewsHour's nightly television broadcast. I remember feeling really blown away by not only her technical skills— filming and editing— but also her attention to detail, her sensitivity with her sources, and her storytelling skills.

Alice later worked with our team to produce a personal story for our podcast, *On Our Minds*, in the spring of 2022 about her own struggles with an eating disorder. Again, her work stood out as being incredibly well-produced. She wasn't afraid to delve into a tough topic. Her story was thoughtful, emotional, and informative.

Due to Alice's strong work ethic and talent, our team invited her to join us during our annual trip to the 2023 SXSW EDU conference in Austin, Texas. She did an excellent job scripting questions, filming, and editing interviews. In one video we published, Alice and another student were on-camera, interviewing figure-skating star Kristi Yamaguchi.

I am grateful for all the opportunities our team has had to work with Alice. I can't think of a more deserving student for Journalist of the Year.

Sincerely,



Marie Cusick
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