



Nicole Griffith  
Principal  
Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders  
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March 8, 2024

Dear JEA Selection Committee,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Alice Scott for National High School Journalist of the Year. During my time as the principal at McCallum High School, I had the distinct pleasure of working with Alice, a truly exceptional journalism student whose dedication, skills, and contributions to responsible, school-wide journalism have left an indelible mark on the McCallum community.

One of Alice's standout achievements is her commitment to providing fair and diverse coverage of news and happenings in the entire school community. Her efforts in spearheading responsible journalism have been instrumental in fostering a culture of inclusivity and awareness within our school. Alice's dedication to initiating and following through with a school-wide awareness campaign for Student Press Freedom Week is a testament to her passion for the principles of a free and responsible press. Her meticulously prepared lessons for all students at McCallum, coupled with seamless coordination with social studies faculty members, showcased her leadership and organizational skills. Having the opportunity to sign the principal's declaration of support for freedom of press was a personal highlight during my tenure at McCallum.

Furthermore, Alice has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to building mutual respect between the McCallum staff, Austin ISD, and herself. Her initiatives, such as presenting to the faculty about journalism teacher David Winter's lifetime award and interviewing Superintendent Mays at the Inspire the Future luncheon, underscore her ability to engage and collaborate effectively with school and district leadership. Additionally, Alice's efforts in interviewing school board candidates ahead of the 2022 election showcased her dedication to informed and responsible journalism that extends beyond the school's immediate boundaries.

Alice's impact on whole-school culture-building activities is commendable. Her creation of a virtual pep rally to kick off the 2021-22 football season, especially considering Covid concerns limiting in-person events, speaks to her creativity and adaptability. This event not only demonstrated her commitment to fostering school spirit but also showcased her ability to overcome challenges with innovative solutions.

Beyond her role in journalism, Alice has leveraged her skills to support our campus and district in various ways. Notably, her 10-minute video for McCallum's SEL Seed-Model campus project, distributed district-wide to highlight SEL efforts during the pandemic, exemplifies her dedication to using journalism as a tool for positive impact.

In conclusion, Alice Scott is an exemplary candidate for the JEA Journalist of the Year. Her passion for responsible journalism, commitment to inclusivity, and ability to lead initiatives that positively impact our school community make her an outstanding choice for this prestigious recognition. I wholeheartedly endorse Alice's candidacy and am confident that she will continue to excel in her journalistic pursuits.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

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