Commander Mike Hale, USN, (Ret)
NJROTC Area Manager, Area TEN
990 Voyager Drive
Suite 2, Medina Annex, Bldg 146
Lackland AFB, Texas 78236-5628

10 February 2016

This is to certify that Cadet Lieutenant (jg) Jordan Goff of the Magnolia ISD Navy Junior ROTC is a qualified applicant for the Joseph C. Gilliam Academic Achievement Award. Specific information to support this certification follows:

(a) Rank/Name: Cadet Lieutenant (jg) Jordan Goff
(b) Position in Unit: Administrative Officer
(c) NS Class: 4
(d) Overall Unweighted GPA: 3.60
(e) Weighted GPA: 4.84
(f) Naval Science GPA: 4.0
(g) High school class standing in total class/number of students: 43 / 412
(h) Other noteworthy accomplishments: see attached resume.

Cadet Goff exemplifies academic achievement and holds memberships in National Honor Society, Book Club, and the French Club. In addition to her academic accomplishments she has distinguished herself as a first place finisher in the State UIL News Writing Journalism competition. Cadet Goff has also distinguished herself as the Unit’s Administrative Officer where she is responsible for the proper maintenance of over 160 cadet records. A selfless person, she has devoted many community service and school service hours. Multi talented, Jordan has been an outstanding cadet and an exemplary mentor to younger cadets. Cadet Lieutenant (jg) Jordan Goff is seeking admission to St Edwards College where she intends to major in Global Studies.

Sincerely,

Jeff Springer
Principal

"To become a place that is principle-centered, creating an environment where all who enter become one."
Foundation of Civilian Excellence

by

Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Jordan Goff

Magnolia Navy JROTC

11 February 2016
Many students hold the misconception that Navy Junior ROTC only prepares one for military service; indeed, it’s easy to see why. NJROTC is a program modelled and funded by the military, cadets wear military uniforms, conduct drill, and participate in various military events. That is what those outside the program see; however, in reality NJROTC is much more than that, and much different. It does not prepare students for entrance into the military, rather, it prepares students for entrance into the real world, and becoming a well-rounded American citizen.

One of the main components of NJROTC is responsibility. Cadets are taught, from the first day, to be responsible for their own actions, words, and duties. When mistakes are made, there are real consequences, but when goals are met, there are also real rewards. Cadets control their success in the program by how determined and dedicated they are, not by handouts. For example, to rank up to a Seaman Apprentice in our battalion, a new cadet must take a short online test in the timespan of two days. It’s not confusing or difficult; nevertheless, many cadets do not take the test for whatever reason. There’s no excuses allowed. If one completes it, they rank up; if one does not, they remain a Seaman Recruit. This lesson in responsibility lays the foundation for the rest of the program in the years to follow.

In the civilian world, whether in the workforce or in university, taking responsibility is crucial to one’s credibility. Employers do not care to hire someone who comes in late and only offers excuses, and no professor wishes to help a student who always claims someone else is at fault for their work. Accountability is one of the most important components to a successful career and the achievement of one’s goals.

Through gaining rank and earning ribbons, cadets are also taught how to achieve short-term and long-term goals through hard work, which can translate into goals set outside of the program. In NJROTC, these goals are presented squarely and cadets are given the tools to reach them. Cadets need only supply the motivation to succeed. This creates a sort of training ground for goal-setting and achieving in the future. There’s a set of steps to reach a goal and when the steps are completed carefully and with hard work, the goal is met. For example, one must earn a certain number of community service hours to receive the community service ribbon.

The method is simple, the cadet knows what they have to do in order to achieve the goal of earning this ribbon. Earning the ribbon can also lead the cadet closer toward other goals, such as
earning a certain amount of ribbons or becoming a leader in the area of community service. This method translates well into the civilian world, where earning promotions in business can be a key to success.

On a broader scale, the personal responsibility that NJROTC teaches can also motivate students to participate more in their communities and their governments. In the United States today, voter turnout rates among youth are very low. Many believe this is because young people feel no responsibility toward their communities; however, NJROTC cadets are taught the value of community involvement through community service and functions, such as parades and color guard ceremonies. Cadets also learn the value of our country, and to feel pride and responsibility toward the United States, and its betterment. This can lead to greater involvement in politics and in the community as a whole.

NJROTC was one of the most challenging programs I ever participated in, and I'm thankful for it. Before this program, I never imagined myself being able to speak in front of others the way I now can; nor did I ever think I could carry out a drill card or command a platoon. I never imagined myself being active in community service, or knowing as much as I now do about the American military and government. The program pushed the boundaries of what I believed I was capable of, and I'm a stronger person and a better citizen because of it. I know this is the case for many cadets. NJROTC is more than a military program, it fosters values such as responsibility, accountability, and honor in students, whether they're entering the military or the civilian world. In either case, these students are better prepared than any others to be active and well-rounded individuals.
Completed 4 years at Magnolia High School.
Graduation date: June 2016.

NJROTC
August 2012 - present

- **June 2015 - present.** Administration Officer; worked on battalion staff; filed papers and kept track of cadet's information.

- **July 2014 - May 2015.** Platoon commander; led the entire platoon in drill events and during inspection; took responsibility for actions of the platoon.

- **October 2013 - May 2014.** Squad leader; inspected elements of my squad and ensured they knew their knowledge and their uniforms were properly worn.

- **August 2012 - September 2013.** Element of the Platoon; followed the orders of the platoon commander and learned all necessary knowledge in drill and chain of command.

French Club
January 2015 - present

- **September 2015 - present.** Elected secretary; helped organize fundraising events and volunteer activities, recorded meetings and schedules.

- **January 2015 - May 2015.** Member of the French Club, participated in meetings.

Air Rifle
August 2012 - present

Team through ROTC program; as a team, won first place in Navy ROTC schools in Texas; individually placed seventh in state overall in 2015.

NHS
May 2013 - present
Participated in volunteer events and tutoring.
Book Club
November 2012 - present
Informal club meeting monthly to discuss books, sponsored by the librarian.

UIL Journalism
November 2012 - present
Competed in all four categories of competition: News, Feature, Editorial, and Headline; made it to Regional level every year and won first place at the state level in 2015 for the News category.

Awards, Honors, & Certificates
- 1st Place in UIL Journalism News Writing for 5A State 2015
  - State Qualifier in Feature Writing
- Regional Qualifier in UIL Journalism Writing
  - Feature Writing Regional Qualifier 2013, 14, 15
  - News Writing Regional Qualifier 2014, 15
  - Editorial Writing Regional Qualifier 2014, 15
- Daughters of 1812 JROTC Medal
- AP Scholar With Honors
- Certified in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Access

Work Experience
Freelance Babysitter / Nanny
August 2013 - December 2015
Work as a babysitter for about five or six local families. Summertime nanny for one family; for three summers in a row (2013-15), watched children from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. on weekdays while parents worked.

College Nannies & Tutors
January 2016 - present
Official nanny/sitter through the company; engaged kids and performed more duties such as pick up from school, sports events, etc.

Volunteer Work
NJROTC
Volunteered with the ROTC unit at various locations.
- Houston Marathon - directed racers in the right direction and prevented interaction with the crowd.
- Houston Food Bank - packaged boxes of canned goods and non-perishables for shipment.
- Harvest Home - visited the residents while in uniform.
- Iron Man Triathlon - handed out bags of snacks and other items to bikers at a point during the race.
NHS

Tutored peers in English and helped edit their essays during free period.