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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to indicate my very strong support for Alexa Thompson as she pursues opportunities after her graduation from Northern Michigan University. I have known Alexa for a little over a year now in my role as NMU president, through her leadership across campus but particularly through her leadership positions in our Student Ambassador and Housing & Residential Life Programs.

Alexa embodies our definition of excellence at Northern Michigan University – she is a very strong student in the classroom (making the Dean’s list) but has also become a leader among her peers and an active servant of the communities we serve. With that in mind, I am fully confident that she will not only excel in exceeding expectations in terms of functional performance, but that she will also quickly emerge as a team leader and effective manager of processes and people. She is ready for her first job, but also to contribute and advance quickly.

I’d like to highlight three of Alexa’s leadership experiences that really stand out to me. The first piece of experience is her role as President of the NMU Apartments House Government. Northern has a very well-developed Housing & Residential Life culture because of the crucial role that campus life plays in the success of our students and our university. Students only rise to leadership positions within this area if they are natural leaders who are unafraid of responsibility and making tough decisions with their residents’ best interests in mind. The fact that Alexa is the “Apartments” president indicates that she is held in very high esteem by her peers. I think that says a lot.

The second experience I’d like to highlight is Alexa’s role as an NMU Student Ambassador. We lean on our ambassadors quite a bit on this campus, trusting them to be our first point (and often main point) of contact with prospective students and their families, or with other visiting parties. The standard of excellences is high, and the varied responsibilities are many with these roles, and Alexa is seen as a real standout among a talented group.

Finally, and perhaps most notable, is Alexa’s leadership role in working at Bay Cliff Health Camp, which supports children age 7-17 who have various mental and/or physical disabilities. Northern’s partnership with Bay Cliff is a key part of our DNA as an institution, and our student leaders who work at the Camp have a tremendous amount of responsibility as they work with the population there. Having worked through a summer at Bay Cliff, Alexa is prepared not just

to work hard, but to work hard with an open mind and a big heart. This underscores her inherent interest in serving her peers and her community and I know it will pay off as she sets out on her career journey. As you consider her for a role with your organization, it is this quality that should stand out to you as much as her degree, G.P.A. or other tangible skills and knowledge. And there are signs of this quality all over her resume, not just in her experience at Bay Cliff. For example, Alexa has taken the time to gain fluency in American Sign Language on top of all her other commitments!

In short, Alexa Thompson has my highest level of support as she applies to join your organization. Feel free to reach out to me at btessman@nmu.edu or (906) 227-2242 if you have any questions or if I can provide more information about Alexa and/or her application.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brock Tessman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brock Tessman
President
Northern Michigan University