

Rick Blauvelt
2420 Bluff Street
Boulder, CO 80304
303-516-1274

January 29, 2006

Institute for Philanthropy and Volunteerism
Studies

Dear:

I have known Jennifer Samimi for seven years. I met her while I was employed as the education and jobs coordinator for Urban Peak, a youth shelter in Denver. Jennifer's intelligence, determination and positive spirit immediately impressed me. Within several months of her arrival at Urban Peak, Jennifer passed her GED, found employment, successfully completed a youth program that qualified her for independent housing assistance, and enrolled in community college classes. Since then, she has completed her associate's degree at Community College of Denver and is now a full-time student at University of Colorado at Denver.

To anyone who knows Jennifer, her successes are not surprising. Jennifer is articulate, creative and thoughtful. Last spring, I watched her deliver an acceptance speech at Urban Peak's annual fund-raising dinner at the Denver Center for Performing Arts. She had just received the organization's Maverick Thinkers award. Her speech was inspiring, passionate and flawlessly delivered. What impressed me most was her ability to write and deliver a speech that challenged the comfort level of her audience and, yet, was sensitive to the purpose of the event – to compel her audience to support marginalized youth. She is deeply passionate about her commitment to social justice, community activism and the common good. Her positive spirit and commitment to humanity are infectious.

Jennifer is a rare individual, capable of overcoming virtually any obstacle she encounters. She will be an asset to your program, and comes with my unconditional recommendation.

Yours truly,

Rick Blauvelt
Director of Resource Development, Community College of Denver
Executive Director, Community College of Denver Foundation