

December 16, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

This reference letter is provided at the request of Mr. Caleb Thome, who has asked me to serve as a reference on his behalf for the Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship. Caleb is currently an undergraduate student pursuing his Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Health Education and Promotion and minors in both Public Policy Studies and Spanish. He is on track to graduate in May 2023 and has a 3.79 GPA. I have known Caleb for two years. He was a student in one of my undergraduate courses and served Crenshaw Leadership Fellow for the Department of Health Science, where I serve as his faculty mentor. It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I am writing to endorse Mr. Thome's application for this scholarship.

In Spring 2020, I had the privilege of teaching Caleb in my HHE 273: Community and Public Health course, which is one of the core courses in the public health program at UA. I would evaluate his overall performance in my course and the public health undergraduate program as excellent. This is evidenced by not only his grades, as he received exceptional grades in my course, but also his demeanor and interaction in the course. Caleb is an engaged student in the classroom. His engagement and genuine interest in the material was evidenced by his participation in classroom discussions and outstanding performance on major assignments and exams. Caleb is proactive about his academic endeavors. Notably, Caleb took my course in the Spring of his Freshman year, and his work in the course was impressive and demonstrated an understanding of the material well beyond that of his classmates, including upperclassman. It was apparent that he had a genuine interest not only in the course content but also to better understand how the course content related to his future career aspirations in public health.

From his performance in my class and discussions we have had about his career goals, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to pursuing a future in public health education, specifically law and health policy. I am confident that Caleb will be successful in a future career in public health law and policy. In addition to his passion for health policy and law, Caleb is committed to serving others through his extracurricular activities. Caleb has extensive leadership experience in meaningful student organizations on campus. He currently serves as the Vice President for Outreach for the Coordinating Council for Honors Societies, President of Omicron Delta Kappa, and Chief Justice for the Student Government Association at UA. He is also a member of the University of Alabama's Homecoming Task Force and was the Director of the "Paint the Town Red" initiative for last year's Homecoming event. In addition to his extensive service, Caleb has previously worked as a Leasing Agent for The Walk apartment complex and as an Office Assistant for The Blackburn Institute. Caleb's commitment and ability to serve and work in these positions while also balancing the

extensive demands of his academic studies and maintaining an excellent GPA demonstrates his exceptional work ethic and initiative to help others.

Caleb has been recognized not only for his outstanding academic accomplishments but also for his leadership on campus. He was selected as a member of The Blackburn Institute and the Crenshaw Leadership Academy (CLA), a leadership institute and professional development opportunity in the College of Human Environmental Sciences. His selection for the CLA was supported widely by the faculty in the Department of Health Science, including our Department Chair, who personally nominated Caleb for this position. Additionally, Caleb was selected by the College to serve as a Student Ambassador, where he meets with prospective students and serves as a representative of the College at University events on and off campus.

Caleb has demonstrated himself to be an exemplary student and individual through his academic endeavors, work experience, and community service activities. I believe he is an excellent candidate for this scholarship opportunity. Although Caleb's academic performance is excellent, what impresses me the most about Caleb is his initiative and passion for helping others, which he does through both his words and his actions. Not only is Caleb an outstanding student, making him well qualified to receive this scholarship, but he is also a remarkable person. He is considerate, humble, and genuinely a joy to be around.

I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Caleb Thome for the Dr. Becky J. Smith Scholarship. Should you have further questions, I am available via email at [awilkerson@ches.ua.edu](mailto:awilkerson@ches.ua.edu) or by telephone at (205) 348-1948. Thank you in advance for your consideration of Caleb Thome for this scholarship.

Sincerely,



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