

September 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great honor and pleasure that I recommend Mr. Douglas Evans, IV for your esteemed, prestigious program. I serve as Douglas's senior counselor, and he has proven to be an outstanding scholar and leader at Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School. Thus, his extremely charismatic personality has earned him the respect of his peers and teachers as a "*young gentleman and scholar*". He is an honor student with a 92 GPA on a 100% scale (3.81).

When I think of Douglas's leadership abilities, there are three descriptors that come to mind: *energetic, motivator, team player*. As a leader, he is very energetic when given a task and completes the task with fidelity and pride. While in group activities, he facilitates his group in a myriad of actions with encouragement and admiration; thus, he is a motivator. Moreover, his peers respect his ability to lead them in such a manner that will result in favorable achievement. Additionally, he is involved in The National Honor Society, National Junior Beta Club, and is the captain of the Maynard Jackson Varsity Baseball team, a 100 Black Men mentee and an International Baccalaureate (IB) program scholar. In his spare time, he volunteers with the Let Us Make Man Foundation, Open Hand Atlanta, and Hosea Helps.

While attending school in an urban setting, such as Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School, many of the students are faced with obstacles daily from their communities; creating challenges that could impede the academic process for some however, that has not reigned true for Douglas. From this experience, it has taught him responsibility, self-discipline, and the determination to succeed. As a result, Douglas has not settled for the status quo; instead, he has risen above the degradation of oppression and society's stereotypes of African American young men and has displayed that he is the exception of the rule-beating the odds.

In my role as the Professional School Counselor, I have the pleasure of knowing and working with several outstanding students, and I feel confident in saying that Douglas's academic abilities and his dedication to excellence aligns with your program goals. His humble spirit, gracious attitude, and thirst for learning are astounding and worth mentioning.

It is with sincerity that I recommend Mr. Douglas Evans for your prestigious program. If given the opportunity to be accepted into your program, I am confident that Douglas will exceed your expectations and make you proud.

Respectfully yours,

*Sakari Balam, MA*

Sakari Balam  
Professional School Counselor