



March 31, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great excitement that I recommend Imoree McGregory for the Monroe Justice and Equality Memorial Scholarship. I have the pleasure of working with Imoree daily in my role as Program Director of Onward Scholars (OSP), a selective scholarship and mentoring program at St. Mary's Academy (SMA). Imoree was selected as one of only twelve students in her class to be a part of OSP based on her demonstrated academic excellence and leadership. Imoree immediately impressed the selection committee with her poise, ability to clearly articulate her thoughts, and collaborative spirit. Our campus has been the beneficiary of her continuing to display these attributes on a regular basis while also excelling in the classroom and bringing out the best in those around her. Imoree shares in your determination to *encourage and support diverse voices throughout the American legal and criminal justice systems while giving a voice to systemically marginalized groups* as evidenced in her pursuit of a career as a criminal profiler. On our campus and in her community, Imoree successfully creates opportunities to help others find their voice.

Two of Imoree's most impressive qualities are her accountability and self-discipline. Imoree takes responsibility for her actions and ownership of her future. She doesn't give up or make excuses because things are difficult or outside her comfort zone. Imoree is someone that appreciates, and makes the most of, the opportunities made available to her. Her schedule has consistently included several of the most difficult classes SMA offers. I am so proud of how Imoree is able to strike a balance between being independent and knowing when to reach out for help. I recently asked her if she wanted to go through the feedback I had given her on an essay together and she replied, "I want to try to make sense of it myself and then I'll reach out if I have any questions". She not only finds great satisfaction in figuring out solutions, but in helping her peers do the same. I recently observed Imoree coaching her classmate who was experiencing writer's block. Imoree began to ask her peer questions centered around the prompt with the goal of drawing out her classmate's story and corresponding emotions. In no time, her classmate had created a detailed outline for her essay thanks to Imoree giving her the tools and environment to confidently find her voice.

Imoree is able to relate with people of all ages and walks of life and speak confidently about her beliefs and values. She is active in a youth Bible study group who comes together to discuss their faith and applications of scripture. She is proud to help create "a safe space for members to lean on each other and deepen their relationship with God". It is this devout faith and her force of will that have pulled her through her life's greatest challenges. She aspires to become a criminal profiler and eventually head of an FBI department, determined to do her part to identify and prevent the factors that drive delinquent behavior. Imoree is passionate about utilizing her voice to empower those who have a hard time speaking up and about being proactive "instead of sitting back and waiting for things to happen". Through her membership and role as Social Manager in SMA's Black Student Union, she has been instrumental in advocating for Black students and creating new opportunities for expression through hosting support groups, managing social events and collaborations with others schools, and helping lead meetings. As a four-year varsity basketball player, Imoree has remained steadfast in her commitment to be a unifying force and a leader by example despite nagging injuries. Most recently, she used her infectious enthusiasm, proactiveness, and collaboration skills in her role on SMA's Prom Committee as she led the search for event venues and provided a variety of well-thought out options to ensure a memorable night for **all** of her classmates.

I am so proud of the young woman Imoree is and strongly recommend her for the Monroe Justice and Equality Memorial Scholarship. I can say with confidence that she will continue to consistently represent the values this scholarship celebrates. Imoree is determined to make a college degree a reality because it will confirm for her that she is in "full control of the life I want to live". Please let me know if I can provide any additional information on her behalf. I may be reached at (310) 674-8470 x303 or [mrice@smabelles.org](mailto:mrice@smabelles.org). Thank you for your anticipated consideration.

Sincerely,

Michele Rice