



Freedom High School

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Steve Amaro, Principal
Carolynn Hoopes, Assistant Principal
Rick Correa, Assistant Principal
Steve Shankles, Assistant Principal
Carissa Weintraub, Assistant Principal

October 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to recommend Isabella Lucado-Oetker, a stellar student who will make a meaningful contribution to any academic community. I have known her since her Junior year as her teacher in CTE Biotechnology, an honors-level course that combines advanced scientific theory with hands-on laboratory practice. This rigorous curriculum includes molecular biology techniques such as DNA extraction, gel electrophoresis, and bacterial transformation, requiring precision, critical thinking, and resilience.

Academically, Miss Lucado-Oetker is ranked 3 out of 549 of her graduating class with a GPA of 4.36. She will have taken 16 AP classes and has excelled in them all. Isabella has expressed interest in attending college to pursue a degree in Astrobiology to research the origins of life forms.

Her academic achievements are matched by the personal qualities that make her truly exceptional. These qualities define Isabella in both academic and personal contexts. She consistently demonstrates intellectual curiosity by asking insightful questions and seeking deeper understanding beyond the curriculum. Resilience is evident in her ability to overcome challenges and persist through complex projects. Collaboration shines in group work, where Isabella fosters teamwork and values diverse perspectives. Finally, her innovative thinking allows her to approach problems creatively and develop unique solutions.

For example, during lab-based experiments, Isabella encountered unexpected results that could have derailed the group's progress. Instead of giving up, she analyzed the variables, identified a potential source of error, and proposed an adjustment that allowed the experiment to continue successfully. What impressed me most was that she went a step further—suggesting a modification to the lab design that would improve accuracy for future classes. I plan to incorporate this idea into next year's curriculum, which speaks volumes about her ability to think critically and contribute meaningfully beyond the classroom.

What makes her collaboration, leadership, and resilience even more remarkable is that Isabella balances a demanding schedule: a full load of AP courses, a lead role in the school theatre production, and volunteering as a tutor for younger students. Despite these responsibilities, she consistently brings energy, creativity, and

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The local educational agency (i.e. - Liberty Union High School District) adopted (has) a policy that prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived ancestry, age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. Additionally, the local agency must have the following in their policies (and practices) in place:

The policy shall include the following: a) statement that it applies to all acts related to school activity or school attendance within a school under the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the school district.

b) Requires that school personnel take immediate steps to intervene when it is safe to do so and when he or she witnesses an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Legal Citations: Education Code [EC] §§ 200, 220, 221.5, 234.1, 260; Government Code [GC] § 11135; Penal Code [PC] § 422.55; California Code of Regulations, Title 5 (5 CCR) §§ 4900, 4902, 4960.

leadership to every setting. This ability to excel academically while contributing to the arts and community service demonstrates exceptional time management and a deep commitment to her goals.

In closing, I can't think of a better fit for your institution than Isabella Lucado-Oetker and I recommend her without reservation. Choosing Isabella will be a strong investment in her future, and that she will take all she has learned and pay it forward.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Bruins

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Bruins".

Freedom High Science Instructor

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