



Delaware Physical Therapy Clinic

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RE: Letter of Recommendation
Setonee Nagbe

To Lee and Elizabeth Mockmore:

I am writing to recommend Setonee Nagbe for the Lee and Elizabeth Mockmore Scholarship. I was Setonee's Physical Therapist in our Neurologic and Older Adult Clinic here at the University of Delaware. Setonee has given me written permission to share aspects of her personal medical information to write this letter. I have known Setonee since May 2025. Throughout my time working with Setonee, I have been able to see her determination and optimism. Setonee was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis at the C7 level. Setonee's arms and legs are all paralyzed. She only has partial movement of her right shoulder and elbow and no volitional activation of her hands. Despite these challenges she returned to the University of Delaware to continue her schooling one year after her injury.

I was able to watch Setonee share her story with multiple graduate and fellow undergraduate students with immense strength. I remember her saying "I cannot change what happened so I have chosen to stay motivated and make the best of this situation." She has begun to make video stories of her journey in hopes to motivate and support others. Once I asked her, what has been the hardest thing and she said "I have had to learn a new level of patience. I am so grateful to my family for their help. It has been a challenge to learn how to be ok with always having to wait for others and accept that they may not do things exactly how I might like." Setonee views this growth as positive change in her outlook on life. She always arrived to PT every week with a smile and determination to work hard. Her infectious warmth frequently drew multiple aides and other therapists over to our area to talk to her while we worked.

Setonee is new to the world of disability advocacy, but already she is diving in with a vigor. Despite the challenges she faces with managing communication devices, she has begun to take ownership of her own needs. She manages her own medical appointments, and advocated for herself to receive a new wheel chair and standing frame in order to promote her own mobility. She even set-up appointments to have a new computer made for herself, to increase her ease and independence with use. Prior to her injury, Setonee worked at a group home and this previous experience has helped push her to think how she can advocate not only for herself but also for others.

I have worked with thousands of undergraduate and graduate students as well as thousands of people with disabilities over my 13-year career as a neurologic physical therapist and educator here at the University of Delaware. I have never met anyone who better demonstrates the core values of leadership, advocacy, optimism, strength, and positivity. I strongly recommend Setonee Nagbe for the Lee and Elizabeth Mockmore Scholarship. I welcome any further questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Stump PT, DPT, NCS