To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Phoenix Gray, an Honors College student majoring in Biochemistry and minoring in Biophysics at Western Kentucky University and an alumna of the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science. I am writing on behalf of Dr. Natalie Mountjoy, Assistant Professor of Biology, Pedagogy, of the Biology Department at the aforementioned university.

Dr. Mountjoy served as my professor of "Introductory Biology: Cells, Metabolism, and Genetics" during the Spring 2019 semester, and during that time she easily exceeded all expectations of a highly competent Biology instructor. During my time at the Gatton Academy, I studied Biology under various professors in order to satisfy both the graduation requirements of the Academy and the fundamental coursework requirements of my major, and using this experiential background as a reference, I firmly attest that both efficiency of Dr. Mounjoy's class structure and her effectiveness as a Biology professor are unrivaled among her peers.

The foundation of any excellent teaching methodology is the environment under which it is implemented, and Dr. Mounjoy's classroom setting exemplifies her understanding of this concept. As a professor of students who use modern technologies in almost every facet of their lives, Dr. Mountjoy's greatest hurdle as a professor is presenting the necessary concepts in a manner that is readily digestible by an easily distracted audience. Despite the many obstacles that this issue brings, Dr. Mountjoy effortlessly overcame each one without sacrificing her duties as a professor by utilizing interactive online platforms, such as Acadly and Mentimeter, as a means to both encourage student engagement in the material and allow her students to cultivate a profound understanding of complex biological processes. Being able to appeal to the learning styles of modern college students is a skill whose importance is unsurpassed, and Dr. Mountjoy's classroom structure displays her mastery of this skill.

While the classroom environment is important to conducive study, even more crucial to student success is the information that is presented. As a college professor, Dr. Mountjoy's responsibility is not only to introduce the fundamentals of the biological processes being covered, but is also to explain these processes in a way the promotes deep, long-lasting understandings. While lecturing on a concept, Dr. Mountjoy's first order of business is to analyze the founding principles of the topic being discussed, and once this is accomplished, she then gives students the opportunity to ask questions regarding any piece of information that they have not yet fully grasped, thereby ensuring that every student is able to develop a comprehensive understanding of the related material. Furthermore, the study materials that Dr. Mountjoy provides are incredibly clear and precise, which accurately portrays her effectiveness as a biology professor.

In short, between her working knowledge of the art of presenting to a modern audience and her emphasis on the importance of student understanding of the topic being discussed, Dr. Mountjoy not only exemplifies her ability to impress upon students the information that they need to succeed, but also encourages students to be interactive in their approach to the material, both of which are critical to effective teaching. Dr. Mountjoy is by far the most impressive professor of Biology that I have worked with to date, and I would recommend her to any student aspiring to further their knowledge of biological concepts.

Sincerely,

Phoenix Gray