



May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

To Whom This May Concern:

Elliot Feinberg just got accepted to UC Berkeley! Why is that so extraordinary? Because Elliot's journey to this amazing moment has been riddled with unimaginable obstacles.

Elliot has schizophrenia. Before his current treatment, and before his huge personal and academic successes, his disease totally disabled him. He's told me of times he'd spend months as a shut in, beholden to hallucinations and paranoia. Fifteen years of trying to cope with his disease, and then being diagnosed bipolar as well, would be enough to send anyone over the edge, but not Elliot. He is absolutely determined to continue achieving what he's set out to do.

The Elliot we know and love today is a kind, intelligent, and thoughtful man. Elliot has been able to work this year, at Starbucks. He also juggles a rigorous class schedule, while maintaining his health through countless doctor's appointments and volunteerism.

UC Berkeley is an expensive school to attend, and the City of Berkley is a very expensive place to live. This award will help keep Elliot afloat. For Elliot, scholarships are not a reward for hard work, but a necessity. To be thirty five years old and launching this journey is remarkable!

I have absolutely no doubts that Elliot will be successful at Cal. His optimism and courage are enviable traits, but the most wonderful trait of all is Elliot's openness about his struggles. As a communications major, Elliot plans to become a mental health advocate. He is a perfect person to champion the rights of others.

I hope you get the chance to meet Elliot Feinberg! Personally, I will miss his genuineness, his humor, and his goodwill to others.

Sincerely,

Aaron Barnett  
Counselor