

December 28, 2024

Dear Committee for the Jack Schlegel Endowed Leadership Scholarship,

I am excited to hear of Benjamin Dang's nomination for the Jack Schlegel Endowed Leadership Scholarship and it is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for an extraordinary intern pharmacist. I have had the pleasure of working directly with Benjamin to train him for the Intern Pharmacist role at Aurora San Diego hospital from his hire in August until the end of November, when I transitioned out of my role at Aurora as Director of Pharmacy.

First, I would like to explain our setting: Aurora San Diego Hospital is a 101-bed fully inpatient acute psychiatric hospital that operates 24hrs, 7 days a week. On a given day, one pharmacist and only one technician play the front-line role to provide Pharmacy services for the entire hospital. Benjamin has invested his weekends while in an impacted Pharmacy Rotation schedule to work as an Intern in an intense inpatient setting - being a sole support to the staffing Pharmacist, directly entering prescriber orders, and also playing a role as a Buyer managing inventory, as well as helping with all other operations.

When we first met, I was immediately impressed with Benjamin's initiative in reaching out and seeking an opportunity to develop himself outside of his school activities, despite a busy schedule. What strikes me as "above-and-beyond" is that most students are so focused on their school and learning that they do not seek work outside of their studies. One of Benjamin's strengths is that he has a high work ethic and is extremely responsive, organized, and responsible - true facets that I look for in a good leader. During our onboarding process, he was caught in a transition to a new I-9 system that required immediate attention, but Benjamin was so quick to respond and comply that our Company's I-9 Manager was very impressed.

It's not just his adaptability and ability to learn that impress me, however. What stood out about Benjamin, when I think about the values that we uphold in our Pharmacy, is his willingness to serve. Our entire staff appreciates a "servant leadership" approach and Benjamin demonstrated this by approaching work not just as a job, but was willing to roll up his sleeves and lend a hand wherever needed. I worked with Benjamin on one of the most trying days of staffing. There were unexpected issues that arose throughout the day, meds that needed to be acquired from an outside pharmacy, and setbacks in our day's work due to the delays. Benjamin was willing to work late until the day was successfully completed and he offered his help, some of which was more than expected of him, such as offering to drive out to pick up the meds. But I appreciated his thoughtfulness and offer anyways.

When I think of strong leadership and a potential to impact the profession, I look for the following: technical and emotional intelligence along with the strength of character to accomplish any endeavor, big or small. And after working over 8 years as a Hiring Manager and Director, Benjamin strikes me as one of the few with a rare professional attitude who will quickly become an asset.

If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 323-717-2642 or by email at annakim123@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Anna Kim, Pharm.D.

Formerly, Director of Pharmacy for Cardinal Health at Aurora Behavioral Hospital San Diego