17 December, 2024

To the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship Committee:

I would like to recommend Vanessa McFarlane for the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship as I believe she embodies the core principles of this scholarship through her passion for adventure, her dedication to inspiring others, and her commitment to living a life of purpose and intention.

Vanessa’s adventurous spirit shines in every aspect of her life. As a competitive snowboarder, she not only excels in her craft but also dedicates herself to growing female participation in the sport. Her mission to empower women in snowboarding aligns beautifully with the ideals of your scholarship. Vanessa was an All-American collegiate diver at Smith College and has seamlessly transitioned her competitive drive into coaching and mentorship roles, including Junior Olympic Diving, gymnastics – both as competitor and coach, and now as a snowboard instructor. Her ability to inspire and elevate others is truly remarkable.

Her commitment to the environment further demonstrates her alignment with the values of the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship. She actively volunteers with local environmental organizations and is deeply aware of how climate change threatens the future of the ski and snowboard industry. This awareness motivates her to weave sustainability into her personal and professional life, ensuring she leaves a lasting impact on her community and the environment.

I had the privilege of working with Vanessa and her team during my tenure as VP of Public Relations and Investor Relations at Cantaloupe, where her role in operations showcased her dedication to helping customers in dire need. Despite the demands of her full-time job, Vanessa effortlessly balanced her work with her passion for snowboarding, pursuing both with the same level of energy and excellence. On a personal note, Vanessa’s care and thoughtfulness extend to her own relationships. She has house-sat and taken great care of our dog, Suzy, on multiple occasions, always demonstrating reliability, compassion, and a genuine love for animals. Her warm and generous nature are strong traits of her character.

Unfortunately, Vanessa was recently laid off, which has made it financially difficult for her to continue pursuing her passion for snowboarding. This scholarship represents an essential opportunity for her to carry on her mission to inspire others and advocate for sustainability within the snowboarding community.

Vanessa lives life embracing every challenge that comes her way with enthusiasm and purpose. I have no doubt that she will make the most of this opportunity, using it to further inspire others and make a difference in her community. She is exactly the kind of person who embodies the spirit of the Flyin Ryan Adventure Scholarship.

Thank you for considering Vanessa McFarlane for this extraordinary opportunity. If I can provide additional information or speak further to her many qualities, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at +1 415.515.0866 or [alicia@anwnetworks.com](mailto:alicia@anwnetworks.com).

Sincerely,

Alicia V. Nieva-Woodgate