

03/13/26

Dear Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend Divine Favour Akin for the Adventure Scholarship Program. My first experience at the Amputee Coalition Conference in 2022 was marked by an exceptional presence, Divine. From our first meeting, it was clear that Divine possessed an extraordinary spirit defined by kindness, determination, optimism, and resilience. I could tell that she was a young person heading toward great things, a fired spirit with unquantifiable potential.

In the years since, I've had the incredible privilege, as her mentor and coach, of watching Divine grow not only in her athletic pursuits but also as a leader within the adaptive community. She has consistently pushed herself to embrace new goals and inspire others to do the same.

Last spring, Divine completed the Gladiator Dash, a 2.3 mile obstacle and mud run, an event that demands physical strength, mental grit, creative problem solving, and sheer will. She didn't stop there; last year, she went on to complete numerous 5Ks, and she is now training for her first 10K. Each milestone is a testament to her perseverance and her commitment to expanding what she believes is possible for herself, for others facing similar challenges, and for the community at large.

Beyond her athletic achievements, Divine has become deeply involved with the Amputee Coalition, where she plays an active leadership role in their youth program. As President of the Youth Leadership Council, she is actively working to organize a national collection and prosthetics drive and developing the youth initiative for the Amputee Coalition. I have had many opportunities to watch her be an active voice for youth as well, from watching her interview with the CEO of AC, to watching her lead her own session at the national conference, to celebrating with her as she engaged with the Employment Council Board, that included leaders from Microsoft and other Fortune 500 companies, about getting youth with disabilities into the workforce. Her work is a reflection of her compassion and dedication to helping others find confidence and purpose after limb loss. She has even gone beyond the Amputee Coalition framework by working to bring an adaptive sports community to Texas A&M as President of Aggie Adaptive Sports. She is a true role model, someone who uses her own journey to uplift others and strengthen the community.

Divine has accomplished all of this while also being a busy college student. Despite having two part time jobs and a full academic workload as a neuroscience major with a

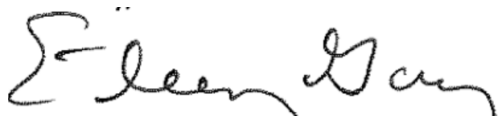
Mandarin Chinese minor, she has continued to make her mark within her campus by being the first amputee to be a part of the Corps of Cadets, becoming a real emblem of strength amidst adversity. Whether that is running with her fellow cadets with a blade or pushing her subordinates during workouts, even if it means doing burpees beside them without a leg, she continues to lead by example.

I truly believe that Divine embodies the very spirit of the Flyin Ryan Hawks Foundation. I have no doubt that with the support of this grant, she will continue to break barriers, inspire others, and represent the adaptive athletic community with pride and determination.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information about Divine's character or achievements. I wholeheartedly recommend her for this grant opportunity.

Thank you for your time and all that you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen Garney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eileen Garney, M.S.Ed.  
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