

I am excited and honored to submit this letter of recommendation nominating NVP Allie Sears for the Don Covelli Award. Allie truly exemplifies exceptional leadership, unwavering integrity, a deep dedication to service, and a genuine commitment to making a positive impact on both people and the community.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Allie and watching her grow throughout her Jaycee career. During this time, she has remained humble while taking on increasing roles and responsibilities within the organization. Allie never seeks recognition, yet she consistently earns it through her actions, her work ethic, and the way she interacts with her fellow Jaycees. She leads by example and sets a standard that others naturally follow.

One of Allie's greatest passions is mental health and awareness and support, which she seamlessly incorporates into her leadership style. Amid the stress of planning events, meeting deadlines, and balancing the many responsibilities that come with being a Jaycee, Allie is always intentional about checking in on others. She makes time to listen, offer encouragement, and ensure those around her feel supported and valued. Her compassion creates a safe and welcoming environment where members can grow both personally and professionally.

The amount of care Allie has for this organization and especially others is unreal. She has faced hardships and struggles within her personal life as well as in her state and local organizations. Yet, she never allowed those struggles to define her leadership. Instead, she has a rare ability to consistently putting others before herself. She keeps showing up and putting in the behind-the-scenes work. She continues to put in work and show up for her local chapter, state organization, the national organization, her family, and everyone else in between. Her reliability, resilience, and selflessness are evident in everything she does.

In JCI, we often get wrapped up in the next innovator who creates bold, visible change. While that is very important, however, this organization thrives because it is built on many types of leaders. Allie represents the kind of leader who may not always be the loudest in the room, but is equally impactful. She leads by fostering others, offering encouragement, and creating space for future leaders to grow and become the next change-makers.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly recommend Allie Sears as a deserving recipient of the Don Covelli Award. She represents the spirit of leadership, service, and excellence that this recognition was created to honor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick McNew

96th Nebraska State President