



Ohio Department of Mental Health

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Pamela Schneider, Program Specialist
Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities
400 E. Campus View Blvd., SW5C
Columbus, OH 43235-4604

Dear Ms. Schneider:

I am writing to extend my enthusiastic support for Matt Mikolic to be selected as a student delegate for participation in the 2006 Youth Leadership Forum.

Matt has demonstrated his leadership potential in his recently appointed role as a youth member of the Ohio Department of Mental Health Transformation Working Group (TWG), on which he participates with many of the Governor's Cabinet members. The TWG will help to guide Ohio toward a mental health system that focuses on consumer and family needs, builds resilience, and facilitates recovery. In this role, Matt will be promoting the active engagement of youth and adult consumers and families in their own recovery experiences along with state and local policies to support this direction for Ohio.

Strengthened through his own life experience with mental illness, Matt has discovered his personal interest and motivation to reach out to educate the public and advocate for others who are living with mental illness. He is an inspiration for both youth and adults in the promise of hope through resiliency and recovery.

If selected to participate in the 2006 Youth Leadership Forum, I can assure the selection committee that Matt will bring to the experience exceptional insight and personal commitment with a sincere desire to develop his leadership potential.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Matt's application and letters of recommendation for this outstanding opportunity.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Hogan, Ph.D.
Director

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