

Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools

TECHNICAL CENTER

February 22, 2006

Re: Matthew Mikolic Delegate Candidate
Governor's Council Youth Leadership Forum

25 Public Square
Willoughby, Ohio 44094
Telephone: (216) 946-7085
Fax: (216) 975-3741

To Whom It May Concern:

I've been asked to write a personal reference letter for Matt Mikolic as a requirement for his candidacy for the Governor's Council Leadership Forum. I have been Matt's Job Training Coordinator at North High School in the Willoughby-Eastlake Schools for the past year and was his supervisor on our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program in 2005.

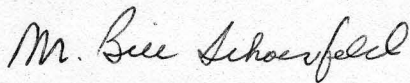
Matt is taking his academics at North High and has participated in our vocational welding class for the past several years. As a senior, Matt earned the opportunity to work in the community as a part of his vocational program and has been employed at a large welding fabricating company in Eastlake since October of 2005. Matt works at least 30 hours per week using his welding employability skills to manufacture various types of welded products. During the last two grading periods, Matt has earned "A's" from his employer for his efforts at work.

It would seem today that Matt is a young man who has always "had it together" but this is not the case. Matt has had many obstacles to overcome along the way. During his journey, Matt learned what it takes to overcome the dark moments in life and find his way to independence, leadership scholarship and stewardship. A few weeks ago, I asked him how he felt about his job and his duties at work. Matt commented "I would rather be helping people with their problems than doing this. I'd rather be using my experience to help others overcome their difficulties."

Matt has a goal for his life and it is unwavering. His desire is to help others overcome their mental issues because Matt knows it is possible to do so. Matt has been where they are now and he believes he can help others. Matt's leadership qualities are evident when you listen to his plan for the future. Matt knows where he's going and how he's going to get there. Matt is also aware of what obstacles may be ahead for him and has a plan to deal with set backs as he strives to fulfill his life and the lives of others.

I enthusiastically recommend Matt's election to the Governor's Council Youth Leadership Forum.

Cordially,



Mr. Bill Schoenfeld
Job Training Coordinator
Willoughby-Eastlake Schools