

September 27, 2023

Division of Psychology and Counseling College of Education University Park, IL 60484 www.govst.edu/coe

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation at the request of Ms. Lisa Wilcox in support of her application for your scholarship.

Ms. Wilcox has been a student in a number of undergraduate courses I teach. Throughout my semesters with Lisa, she has contributed consistently and positively to class discussions and conducted herself in both a professional and studious manner in all interactions. Throughout the terms, Ms. Wilcox has demonstrated high levels of motivation and persistence as evidenced by the steady progress on the writing and research assignments throughout the course. She actively distinguishes herself academically, demonstrating the willingness and ability to take the time and effort to produce thoughtful and quality assignments.

Ms. Wilcox has been vocal about her career desires and spoke with me at great length about her plans for the future. These plans were definitive and clearly articulated to me, illuminating Ms. Wilcox's desire to work towards positive contributions in the field of psychology. Ms. Wilcox's motivation and level of determination are apparent in her undertakings, as evidenced by her university participation to which she contributes extensively.

Contrasting Ms. Wilcox to other undergraduate students, I can attest that she has been consistently motivated to succeed and has expressed this clearly. Her academic ability is of high quality, and she has demonstrated appropriate sensitivities that will serve her well in a clinical environment.

In conclusion, I have no reservations in recommending Ms. Wilcox for consideration of your scholarship. I believe that Ms. Wilcox has the capacity, and desire, and personal skills to contribute significantly to undergraduate success. Therefore, it is without reservation that I endorse her application for your scholarship, and offer you my highest recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Covic, M.A. Senior Lecturer Governors State University Division of Psychology and Counseling

Name: Lisa Beth Wilcox SSN: XXX-XX-7843 DOB: 11/12/XXXX Governors State University 1 University Parkway University Park, IL 60484 ***UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT*** Page: 1 of 1 Print Date: September 27, 2023

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Other Institutions Attended Joliet Junior College Eastern Illinois University	Start End 08/01/2019 12/01/2021 08/01/2022 12/01/2022			-
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Lisa Wilcox Wilcoxlisa22@gmail.com Psychology/Addictions

My name is Lisa, and I'm an addict. That statement is all too familiar. I was a heroin addict from when I was twenty years old until I was forty-three; I had been participating in drug use since I was fourteen. I was on drugs more of my lifetime than sober. I say heroin because when asked, "What is your DOC (drug of choice)?" I usually say back, "All of the above." I did not discriminate, and normal people do not understand, so I told them heroin since that and alcohol were the hardest to quit.

I was homeless for eleven years and slept on couches until people took everything I had. I went to rehab with a duffel bag full of dirty clothes and leaves in my hair from sleeping outside. I was finally ready after my boyfriend overdosed and died beside me when I was asleep.

It was the fifth time I had been to Steppingstones. I spent fourteen years jumping from one rehab to the next until I had ten rehab stints. Before the program was completed, I was asked to work for the facility. I started as a clinical assistant, but they wanted me to get a C.A.D.C certificate. That was not enough; I walked in the doors of JJC to get a certificate and walked out enrolled in college. I have an associate degree in human services and am working on a bachelor's in psychology. I would like to get a master's degree in addiction studies.

I tell my fellow addicts, "If I can do it, anyone can." Addicts are very difficult because if they cannot see it, they will never believe it. I never stayed sober for more than fifty-nine days. I know that the substance is not the problem. It is the solution to the problem. Whether it be mental health, trauma, or anything else that caused someone to want to escape reality, they became unable to stop.

I am currently working as a server to support my finances. All the ladies that came through the rehab I got sober in and the two years I worked there still call me whether they are sober. When I started the sobriety journey, I made a motto to treat others better than I would expect to be treated. I tell people my story to people who know someone in addiction, and in churches too.

My name is Lisa, and I am going to save the world, one person at a time!