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To Whom It May Concern,

I wholeheartedly recommend Alexander Castellanos for admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison! As a teacher and mentor of Alex for the past four years, I am genuinely excited about Alex's potential and believe he will be an incredible asset to your academic community. His journey these past four years is a testament to his vision, determination, and passion for success.

Alex boldly chose to attend Rock University High School, a public middle college high school, which speaks volumes about his character. This decision highlights his proactive approach to education and his desire to challenge himself; it's truly inspiring! Alex is set to graduate from high school with an IT Technical Support Specialist Associate's Degree from Blackhawk Technical College, just one month before graduating from high school. This achievement demonstrates not only his readiness for college-level coursework but also reflects his hands-on experience in networking and server infrastructure.

The technical skills Alex possesses are outstanding. He has applied his knowledge through innovative, self-directed projects that showcase his abilities. One of his most impressive accomplishments is designing and managing a sophisticated Home Data Center and AI/ML Lab. Alex configured enterprise-grade networking with a Juniper switch through this project, successfully segmented traffic using multiple VLANs, and leveraged an NVIDIA RTX 3090ti for machine learning model training. His credentials, including the CompTIA Tech+ and Fortinet Cybersecurity certifications, further solidify his technical proficiency.

Beyond Alex's educational accomplishments, he is also an active participant in various clubs and honor societies, earning leadership roles. As a proud member of the class of 2026, he serves as the President of the STEM Club, is a National Honor Society Officer, and an AVID Tutor, guiding underclassmen through complex material. Alex has even volunteered his expertise when he saw students' needs. He identified a gap and took the initiative to design and code a program in Python to help faculty track Chromebook chargers, demonstrating his immediate software development skills and ability to create practical solutions to help others. Alex was also a dedicated participant in the Rock County Internship program and is currently enrolled in the local Leadership Development Academy, showcasing his desire to improve his community and develop his leadership skills.

Alex not only takes on new opportunities, but he actively creates them! His accelerated educational journey, proven technical skills culminating in a congruent Associate's Degree and high school diploma, a deep passion for autonomous systems and data science, and his commitment to the communities he belongs to define him as an exceptional candidate. From day one, I do not doubt that Alex will contribute meaningfully to the UW-Madison campus.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Best regards,

Erin Jensen