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January 20, 2017

As a teacher of 150 students per school year, it is rare to come across a student as remarkable as Sophie Winnick. Sophie's dedication to her academics and journalism are second to none and Wando is a better place because she walked these halls.

I had the pleasure of teaching Sophie in AP Human Geography during her freshman year. I could tell from the day she walked in my room that Sophie was wise beyond her years and was able to tackle things that her peers were not quite ready for. Her creativity and eye for subtle details never always lead Sophie in the right direction. More than once, Sophie took it upon herself to help other students around her without any encouragement to do so from me.

Since her freshman year, I have been able to keep up with Sophie since she is a member of our AP Academy. Although Sophie spends a great deal of time working on her journalistic endeavors, she still excels in the classroom by taking AP and upper level classes ever year of her high school career. She multitasks well, and always makes sure her work is of the utmost quality.

Although Sophie has impressed me with her academic ability, her talent as a journalist has blown me away. Phillip Caston, her yearbook advisor, has nothing but positive things to say about Sophie and her leadership ability. Phillip often shows me the work that Sophie has done and it is as outstanding as anything I have ever seen. More importantly, Sophie knows how to deal with her peers and the faculty and staff of Wando. One specific time comes to mind when Sophie was a junior. She was talking to one of my students about a yearbook feature and her demeanor and attitude was that of a teacher. She calmly explained what she wanted the other student to do and answered questions like a professional. This has a lasting impression on me because any student can excel, but Sophie helps others do the same.

It is obvious from the above that Sophie is an exceptional young lady and I highly endorse her for the SCSPA Journalist of the Year.

Sincerely,
Jason Brisini
Social Studies Department Chair
AP Academy Board Member
Wando High School