June 30, 2011

Dear Scholarship committee,

I am writing this recommendation letter on behalf of Daniel Valenzuela for the diversity scholarship. For the last two years Danny has be a tremendous help to me in regards to recruiting students from the metro NYC area and especially during Multicultural Weekend. Each spring SUNY Potsdam hosts an overnight program for accepted students from the NYC Metro area to come and see what Potsdam is all about and to help promote diversity on our campus. In preparation for this event there is a lot of communication with the attendees and their families. Danny was great; especially because he can speak Spanish and that made a lot of the families more comfortable with sending their student so far away. One parent actually told him that they were very thankful to be able to ask questions and communicate with a Spanish-speaking person because they did not speak English and that this in turn helped them to feel comfortable with SUNY Potsdam.

Danny also worked very closely with these students. During the 2010 Multicultural Weekend he was the Residential Advisor (RA). This responsibility highlighted his natural ability to mentor the students and act as an ambassador to SUNY Potsdam. It’s clear to me that Danny is able to relate to various groups of students which is necessary to succeed as an educator.

Please consider him for the Diversity Scholarship as he represents everything that it embodies.

Sincerely,

Heather M. teRiele  
Admissions Counselor