Dear Mr. Durante,

I would like to thank you for my acceptance of the James R. O'Neil/ W. Robert Powers Joint Scholarship. This award will go a long way in assisting me with my Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology degree.

I am doing very well in school, and am maintaining a 4.0 GPA. So far in college, I have taken FSE 101, 120 and am currently taking FSE 221. This means I have an introduction to fire dynamics, fire and building code, and fire suppression systems.

My main extracurricular activities include SFPE and fitness. Every 2 weeks we meet for SFPE, and we are currently planning where we want to take the chapter in the upcoming semesters. We focus on having presentations and guest speakers come to our meetings. These events help myself and other members learn more about Fire Engineering and future career paths. Weightlifting and stretching is my favorite extracurricular activity. I dedicate about 8 hours a week to exercise and I focus on rest and recovery when outside the gym. Currently, I am very close to doing the front splits.

Since January of 2022, I have worked at EKU as a fire extinguisher lab technician. I inspect 1/6th of the extinguishers on campus every month and service when needed. I am responsible for making my own schedule, and the operation of campus equipment and vehicles. I even inspect and service a golf course off campus. During my time in this position, I have learned how to conduct 6 year and hydrostatic testing for ABC extinguishers. For the summer of 2022, I am looking for an internship. My goal is to intern at Oak Ridge National Lab, and I have already begun communicating with the fire chief there. Over spring break I plan to meet with him in person to discuss further possibilities. An internship at ORNL would mean endless learning opportunities.

Again thank you very much!

All the best,
Leonardo Vargas