Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development — Building Futures Since 1983

Scholarship Recommendation Form

Instructions: Thank you for being a recommender for the PCAFPD scholarship. Recommendations are used as part of the selection process. Please type your information below and provide a digital copy to the applicant for submission. Hand written responses will not be accepted.

Recommender Information

Name: Ricky Baritos Relationship to applicant: School Paper Adviser

Organization/School: St. John's Institute Email address: ricky.baritos@sji.edu.ph

Applicant Information: Use additional pages as needed

Name: Kiej Tijaa Cordero Current School: Ateneo de Manila University

Recommendation

PCAFPD scholars are chosen on the basis of their financial need, academic performance, and commitment to community service and leadership. As the applicant's reference, please describe the applicant's demonstrated leadership skills, accomplishments, and impacts on your community and any other relevant information you feel the committee should know about the applicant.

I am Ricky Baritos and I am the school paper adviser of The Falcon Quarterly.

I am writing this recommendation to express my support for Kiej Tijaa Cordero and her application for a scholarship grant. I have had the pleasure of teaching and becoming her school paper adviser from 2023- 2026 at St. John's Institute.

As her school paper adviser, I have had the privilege of closely observing her dedication, skill, and integrity in the field of journalism.

Kiej has consistently demonstrated exceptional writing ability since Grade 6 as Falcon staff writer and handled the official school publication The Falcon Quarterly as the Head News Editor, S.Y. 2023- 2024 and the Editor-in-Chief for two consecutive years, S.Y. 2024- 2025 and S.Y. 2025- 2026. She has produced well-researched and insightful articles that not only inform but also inspire Johnians. On top of that, she effectively managed the publication's online newspaper issues and official Facebook page, taking an active role in broadcast and online journalism through *The Falcon Flash and The Falcon from the Nest.*

Beyond her technical expertise, Kiej exemplifies the core values of journalism through leadership, service, and mentorship. She has successfully organized and facilitated seminars and workshops for aspiring Johnian writers, including *The Falcon Quarterly Writeshop* for English

Recommender Name & Signature: **Date:**

and Filipino grade level participants, as well as Campus Journalism training sessions for future campus journalists. Her ultimate legacy was organizing a media literacy program for the whole Johnian community called *PROBEdukasyon: Truth School Caravan*, with The Probe Team, a media organization founded by veteran journalist Ma'am Che- Che Lazaro, in November 2024.

Moreover, she actively participates in various journalistic opportunities such as school publications, press conferences, and writing competitions. Her achievements in campus journalism include awards such as 6th place- News Writing (English) in Division Schools Press Conference 2024 and 7th place- Editorial Writing (English) in the Division Schools Press Conference 2026.
Most recently, she was nominated for the prestigious Philippine Information Agency's IWAG Award, an incentive scheme honoring outstanding graduating campus journalists in the region. Additionally, she was awarded with SJI's Journalism Award for her dedication, excellence, and commitment to campus journalism.

I wholeheartedly endorse Kiej's application for the scholarship grant. I am confident that she will fully utilize this opportunity and continue to make a significant impact.

Recommender Name & Signature: **Date:**