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May 30, 2018

John Carr
2317 E. 11th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50316

RE: East High Class of 1956 Scholarship

Dear John:

Timothy Schonkaes is the recipient of the first scholarship awarded by our class. Tim called me to thank our class for what that meant to him after sending me his letter and receiving my response to him. I invited him to come to see my office and offered to take him to lunch. He came his last day at East. It wound up being 2 ½ hours.

Tim is an incredible young man. At the end of his tenth-grade year Tim had all of his math and science requirements in advanced learning courses completed and was really qualified to graduate then. He chose to graduate with his class.

Tim has enrolled in Drake University for this fall majoring in acting. I told him that a lot of lawyers were actors too, some not intentionally; and that his ability to communicate effectively will serve him in many professions ranging from sales to teaching to law. We discussed his many alternative career paths. Tim has acted in several community productions. Whether it becomes a career, or a vehicle for other opportunities is still open, but regardless acting will be part of the rest of his life. I have no doubt he can become successful in anything he wishes to do.

Tim's father is a minister of a large Missouri Synod Lutheran Church located on the edge of Altoona. He has a large family and without our scholarship Drake would not have been an option for him. Essentially, he will be paying his own way.


The clear message I received from Tim was that our scholarship meant a lot more to him than the mere dollars it provides. It told him that East High alumni had faith in him and that we wanted him to succeed. It provided him a path that he would not otherwise have available. Tim's family has a recent immigrant history and a strong cultural and

religious belief system that has caused him some feeling of oppression and limitation that our gift is helping him overcome. He now sees beyond his barriers. Judging from his academic history it is easy to see that he is very determined to rise above them. Even his personal beliefs significantly differ from those of his family, but they are well reasoned and intellectually sound. He reads extensively beyond his academic requirements, but they are in deep subjects he feels compelled to master.

I am left with the feeling that we could not have had a better candidate for our first scholarship, and that we can be very proud that our class has made a real difference in the future of our world by our working collectively together. If we can raise another \$4,600 we can provide a scholarship for an East High graduate annually literally forever. After we pass the \$30,000 level of contribution toward our fund goal our scholarship will be given annually.

I certainly thank everyone that has contributed. In representing you I can truly say that this was a very moving experience for me, and it makes me proud to be an East High graduate with a class that cares to make a real difference in our world. Tim will feel grateful to us forever -- Because we have placed our faith in him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Lyle L. Simpson', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Lyle L. Simpson