



March 15, 2015

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing this letter of recommendation at the request of Miss Kathleen Gergel.

I have known Katie for about 5 years through our Church where I have interacted with her as she has grown from a youth to a young adult. Recently, I had the privilege to serve as chairperson on a search committee for our new Pastor. Katie was elected to serve on the committee as one of two youth members based on her maturity, leadership and respect by the congregation and our Church Session. Due to the importance of the committee to the future health and welfare of the church, for finding and recommending its future Pastor, only proven leaders of the church are called to serve on the search committee. Katie has had that recognition through her role in choir, Vacation Bible School and on the Philly Project Mission trip last year. She has also previously served as a youth Deacon in the Church. I must confess that even with her proven youth leadership background in the church, because of her youth, I expected that I would only occasionally get her to offer her advice on a potential candidate. This is especially true since the other members of the committee were veteran church leaders and active in many other areas of the church. I did not expect her to be a full participating member of the search committee but quite the opposite was the case. Katie was very thoughtful and mature in her assessment of potential candidates. She was outspoken when needed and was not afraid to politely express her thoughts, even when one of the adult members had expressed a different perspective. She had excellent insight, outstanding group dynamics, and a maturity that was well beyond what I expected for her physical age. Katie quickly became treated as a member in full standing on the search committee and she played a vital role in recommending, interviewing and hiring our next Pastor.

Not only did Katie fulfill the role of Search Committee Member with excellence, but she is an outstanding student and excellent athlete. I do not know her current GPA or class standing but in the past, she has been first in her class of more than 300 students. As extracurricular activities in school, she has been on the varsity tennis team throughout most of her high school years. She is a member of the Spanish Honors Society and has participated in the Physics Olympics Team.

It is a privilege to highly recommend Miss Gergel, without reservation, for acceptance into your institution. She will make an outstanding, well rounded student.

In case my background is useful in helping to assess Miss Gergel's qualifications, I have attached a brief biography at the end of the letter of recommendation.

Sincerely,

James W. Serum Ph.D.  
President (Retired)  
Scitek Ventures  
899 Denton Hollow Road



West Chester, PA 19382

## **Biography of James W. Serum**

Dr. Serum received a B. A. in Chemistry from Hope College in 1965 and was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Organic Chemistry in 1969 from the University of Colorado. His doctorate research was directed toward studies in Mass Spectrometry. Following his graduate studies, he taught and did research at the University of Ghent, Belgium. He spent a year at Rice University as a Welch Fellow, and then joined the staff at Cornell University as Director of the National Institutes of Health High Resolution Mass Spectrometry Facility. Dr. Serum joined the Hewlett-Packard Company in 1973 as Applications Chemist for Mass Spectrometry. Since then he has held a number of management positions, including Technical Support Manager for Mass Spectrometry in Europe (Paris, France); Marketing Manager for Mass Spectrometry and Spectroscopy at the Scientific Instruments Division; R&D Manager at the same division; and R&D Manager for the Avondale Division (Laboratory Automation and Chromatography Instrumentation). Since 1984 he has held Business Unit level positions as Operations Manager for Laboratory Automation Systems, Automated Chemical Systems Operation and Analytical Group Research & Development Manager. In 1992 Dr. Serum was named General Manager for Mass Spectrometry, Infrared, and Protein Chemical Systems. He was the founder of HP's Bioscience Products business. He has served as chairman of HP's Bioscience Council, co-chairman of the Hewlett-Packard R&D Council and the Pharmaceutical Business Council. He retired from Hewlett Packard in August 1999 to co-found Viaken Systems Inc, where he was a Director and served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Serum has been a Venture Partner with Flagship Ventures and until retiring in 2011, served as President of Scitek Ventures, a science and technology consulting firm that he founded in 2002. In 2002 he was elected as a lifetime National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences and in 2004 he was elected to serve on the Visiting Committee for Advanced Technology of NIST. In 2005, Dr. Serum was named to the President's Advisory Board for Advanced Technology at the Research Corporation. He has served or currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for a number of emerging technology based companies. In 2008, he was elected as Chairman of the Visiting Committee for Advanced Technology for NIST. Dr. Serum retired from his company, Scitek Ventures in 2011. He remains actively involved in the future of science and technology in the US and has testified several times in Congress related to this topic.