

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**  
Washington ARTCC  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I met Jacqueline DiBella in 2012 as a student at SUNY Genesee Community College (GCC). As part of my studies, I was required to take a public speaking class. During the first day of class, Ms. DiBella spoke about the Multicultural Communications Club that she had founded. I was quickly impressed by the goals of the club and knew that I would need help to succeed in this class. I told Ms. DiBella at the end of the class I would like to join this club. Little did I know this act would change the trajectory of my personal and professional life.

On the surface, the goal of the Multicultural Communications Club was to provide a place where members can improve their public speaking and leadership skills, but it became so much more than that. Ms. DiBella was deeply committed to her students and to providing them with the tools necessary to succeed in their professional lives. Having spent years running her own business in the travel industry, Ms. DiBella has traveled the world and recognizes the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our society. This is reflected in the Multicultural Communications Club commitment to prioritizing diversity and inclusiveness.

At my first meeting, Ms. DiBella quickly put me at ease with her humor and passion for helping her students. As a person from a small town in New York that was not very diverse, I was not accustomed to interacting with people from different backgrounds. Listening to speeches on a variety of topics helped me see the world from a different viewpoint. I can conclusively say I became a more compassionate and empathetic person as a result.

Ms. DiBella saw potential in me and asked if I would serve in a leadership position. I first became Sergeant-at-Arms then moved up over the following two years to be Vice President and then President of the club. Ms. DiBella was adamant that students in leadership be able to attend Toastmasters' yearly convention. I was fortunate to be able to attend in 2013 and see some of the best public speakers in the world compete.

In 2014, Ms. DiBella, an international student from Tanzania, and I traveled to Albany, NY to give a presentation on the Multicultural Club to the SUNY Chief Diversity Officer. We presented how impactful the club was on its members and how it could be a model to enrich diversity in other higher education settings. As a result of this meeting, we secured a \$10,000 SUNY Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion grant for the club. This grant was used to showcase the club at a multicultural event entitled East meets West which highlighted the impact the club has had on its members and broader college community.

During the summer of 2015, Ms. DiBella recognized the need to move outside the college setting to promote diversity and inclusion within the community. She organized a group of Japanese students to visit a summer program for school children to give a presentation on Japanese culture and to prepare sushi with the children. It was enormously successful, and the children had a great time learning about Japan and eating sushi. This was followed by a day trip to New York City with American and international students. For many, this was their first time experiencing New York City and the uniqueness and culture the city offers.

Ms. DiBella gave her students the tools to go out into the world empowered and open-minded to the diversity the world offers. My time in the club helped me see more clearly the systemic injustices in our society and many of our workplaces. I can confidently say I am a different person because of Ms. DiBella and I am proud to say she remains a friend and mentor after all these years.

Ms. DiBella has spent her life trying to build a more inclusive, anti-racist society. She has the tools and vision for broad strategic transformation of any workplace she enters. She is an excellent communicator and is loyal, dependable, and a professional in the workplace. I wholeheartedly recommend Ms. DiBella.

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