

NIXON-SMILEY
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
800 Rancho Road
Nixon, Texas 78140-0400



March 28, 2016

To Department of Agricultural Leadership Selection Committee:

Cathy L. Lauer, Ph.D.
Superintendent
830/582-1536 Ext 104
Fax 830/582-1920
cathy.lauer@
nixonsmiley.net

Jeff Van Auken
Dir. of Business & Operations
830/582-1536 Ext 104
Fax 830/582-1920
jeff.vanauken@
nixonsmiley.net

Linda Parks
Director of Special Programs
830/582-1536 Ext 107
Fax 830/582-1920
linda.parks@
nixonsmiley.net

Trey Alexander
High School Principal
830/582-1536 Ext 202
Fax 830/582-2168
trey.alexander@
nixonsmiley.net

Jane Dwyer
Middle School Principal
830/582-1536 Ext 301
Fax 830/582-2258
jane.dwyer@
nixonsmiley.net

Lundy Atkins
Elementary Principal
830/582-1536 Ext 402
Fax 830/587-6558
lundy.atkins@
nixonsmiley.net

Throughout my 19 years in Nixon-Smiley CISD, I have been asked to write many recommendation letters for students. For most, I pull out a generic reference letter and fill in a few details. Every once in a while, however, one comes along that I feel necessitates more attention. Cody Box is just such a student. I have known Cody since he was very young, so I feel particularly qualified to recommend him for your *Agricultural Leadership Graduate Program*. I think he is an exceptional candidate and, if accepted, will someday be one of your finest alumni.

One of the many reasons I feel strongly about Cody's future success in your program is that he has long stood out among peers as being a remarkable person. Even in elementary school, Cody displayed an unusual maturity and natural leadership ability. He maintained strong grades, but more interestingly, Cody could be found on the playground leading a group in play while ensuring everyone was included. Those are unusual skills among children so young. For that and other reasons, he had many friends and was well-liked by all who knew him.

Through the years, Cody continued to outshine his classmates as an enthusiastic participant and leader in both school and community activities. His exemplary work ethic became even more apparent as he maintained a strong academic standing and excelled in athletic pursuits. Never content to just be part of the team, Cody always brought forth his best, building camaraderie among his peers with his commitment to excellence and words of encouragement. Moreover, Cody never missed an opportunity to be helpful and polite. I still smile when I remember how he always greeted me by name when he saw me and the time he went out of his way to show me how to use my then-new iPhone.

Clearly, it has been my pleasure to watch Cody grow from a little boy to the amazing man he is today. I am so pleased that he continues to excel beyond his years, as you can see in his *Resume* and *Personal Statement*. There again, his leadership and work ethic clearly stand out.

In my opinion, Cody represents everything your organization would hope for in a candidate: a strong sense of "team", natural leadership skills, and an excellent work ethic. There is no doubt he is on the road to success in life. I encourage you to accept his application. If you have any other questions or would like to discuss this reference further, please feel free to contact me at (830) 391-3866.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Lauer, Ph.D.
Superintendent