To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter of reference at the request of Isabel M. Rosario, who is applying for admission to recieve a scholarship from your organization. I had the pleasure of working with Isabel for her final year of high school and for the passed 2 years having her as a volunteer.

When I first met Isabel, she was a high school junior and she had a visual condition that required her to learn to read and write Braille at a rapid pace. Unfortunately, Isabel was without a TVI (Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments) for most of her final year of high school. Having a TVI would have helped her to make the transition from print to Braille and to learn and implement the essential skills necessary to living independently with vision loss. Despite these major obstacles, Isabel worked diligently to set goals, make informed decisions and to problem solve to fill in the gaps resulting from not having a TVI. One of the things that impressed me most when I first met Isabel was her ability to advocate effectively for her needs, goals and decisions about her future.

 In my capacity as a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments at Central High School, I witnessed a hard working and driven young woman with a distinct plan for her future. Isabel has never wavered from that plan. Isabel took a heavy course load throughout high school so that she could graduate a year early. Isabel consistently utilized instructional time in a productive and determined manner. Isabel's high school academic performance was superior. After graduation, her plan included attending a transitional program at the Carroll Center for the Blind in Newton, Massachusetts. She successfully attended that program to prepare for living independently on the college campus and to prepare for vision loss.

What is most impressive about the design and meticulous execution of her career path plan is that she did graduate at the end of her junior year, and she did this as a distinguished member of the National Honor Society. I believe Isabel is an exceptional student who will make a lasting impression on the educational community at Southern Connecticut State University. Isabel is always willing to go the extra mile when it comes to learning and helping others. I highly recommend Isabel as candidate for acceptance to recieve a scholarship from The National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut.

Please feel free to contact me at jblakeslee@bridgeportedu.net, or at (203) 859-0408 if you have any questions regarding Isabel Rosario.