



ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

RECEIVED

FEB 12 2019

James T. Abbatello

Assistant Controller

Tel: 718-990-8028

Fax: 718-990-5935

Email: abbatelj@stjohns.edu

February 7, 2019

Ronald A. Cuccaro, Executive Chairman
Tidal Basin Disaster Recovery Group
126 Business Park Drive
Utica, NY 13502

Dear Ronald:

It is my pleasure to provide to you my recommendation for Mr. Jake Gruber and the NY State recovery contractors' team who serviced St. John's University after Hurricane Sandy devastated New York City Metropolitan area over 6 ago.

My name is Jim Abbatello, one of the Assistant Controllers for St. John's University. I have over 30 years of experience working in the fiscal areas for both *for profit* and *not for profit* companies. I was the key point of contact at St. John's University immediately following the hurricane in 2012. We experienced a lot of damages throughout our 4 campuses; Queens, Staten Island, Manhattan and Oakdale.

During our time together, Jake displayed great communication skills in what was required for submission to FEMA as well as providing timely, accurate and professional service. When Jake was first assigned to St. John's, I was immediately impressed with his technical skills as well as his vast knowledge in disaster recovery.

It's not just Jakes technical skills that impressed me, however. Jake was a pleasure to work with because of his amazingly positive attitude and eagerness to stick tightly to deadlines which provided St. John's with a timely resolution and recovery of expenses. His can-do attitude and team building skills also contributed to this success.

I am absolutely confident that Jake and his team would be a great fit for any future disaster recovery assignments. Not only will he bring the kind of skills and experiences required, but he will continue to be an asset to your organization.

If you need more information or specific examples, please do not hesitate to contact me at 718-990-8028, or by email at abbatelj@stjohns.edu. I would be happy to further elaborate on my time working with Jake.

Sincerely,

Jim Abbatello