



STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for awarding "The Dropout" recognition for its outstanding journalism. The Dropout was incisive, cogent, comprehensive and compelling. This podcast series and subsequent documentary illuminated the startling ability of the overly ambitious young founder in manipulating the gullibility of the rich and powerful, as well as of the vulnerable, in her web of fabrications.

As a professor of medicine at Stanford University, I played a role in both The Dropout and the HBO documentary The Inventor. Thus, I witnessed the dedication and professionalism of both highly involved teams for ABC (Rebecca Jarvis, Taylor Dunn & Victoria Thompson) and for HBO (Alex Gibney and Jesssie Deeter) in spotlighting the fraudulent and criminal aspects underpinning the Theranos story. In my opinion, ABC was the more insightful, forthright and hard punching in telling this story that has intrigued much of the Western world.

To illustrate, The Dropout featured in depth reporting with multiple witnesses and carefully vetted, exclusive depositions, a perspective that highlighted the lies and deception underpinning the company. The Dropout showed the conundrum of a young woman, described as so brilliant by so many, who managed to deceive highly powerful and connected people. The situation was one that I would call a "burr under my saddle" for years, because I was a direct witness to Elizabeth Holmes' false narrative and artificial facade, as well as the trail of personal destruction she left in her wake. Simply put, I did not fall for the story line (a fact that I contribute as much to my gender, thus lack of susceptibility to the wiles of this young woman), upon meeting her at age 29 or any time thereafter. The Dropout showed it all.

I salute Rebecca Jarvis, Taylor Dunn and Victoria Thompson for the ABC production The Dropout. This podcast and subsequent television broadcast were deep and effective in a way that influenced the populace, making individuals and institutions re-evaluate how "entrepreneurship" is viewed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phyllis Gardner".

Phyllis Gardner, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Stanford University