

SAMPLE MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP RECOMMENDATION



MU

MYTHIC
UNIVERSITY

123 Ivy Road, Mythic CA 99999 555-123-4567

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Recommendation of John Lerner for the Marshall Scholarship

It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. John Lerner for selection as a Marshall Scholar. In my six years of association with Mythic University, I have not come to know a person as uniquely qualified as he is for this prestigious scholarship award.

I know John through both the formal contact of the classroom and research laboratory and the informal interaction of extracurricular and social functions. His exceptional competence, thoughtfulness, originality, and interest have shown brightly in each of these environments.

His performance in an Engineering Mechanics course I teach to sophomore honors students ranked at the top of the class. The course was rapidly paced and design-oriented, providing a genuine test of a student's capability for using conceptual knowledge as a basis for devising solutions to practical problems. In two other courses I taught in the materials sciences, which also included a laboratory component, John demonstrated an innate ability to understand and use the diverse subject material. His term projects were well-researched, well-organized, and lucidly written. His oral presentation of the work to the class exhibited his ease in communicating technical information in a clear, concise, and interesting fashion.

John's level of interest in his academic studies transcends the limited perspective held by students who view education as mastering only a defined amount of topical material and securing high grades for that accomplishment. The Engineering Science major is an honors curriculum, diverse in its subject coverage, and demanding in the accelerated and advanced (often abstract) approach to engineering education. John clearly enjoys the challenge of this creative program. He is secure in the knowledge that by sincerely applying his intellect through diligent, conscientious work, he will excel. And most certainly, he is an example of an excellent honors student.

I also served as a faculty adviser for a team of students who designed an experiment to be conducted during flights on the space shuttle. John took an active role in this project, which had as its only reward the knowledge gained and the satisfaction of completing a task. The experimental apparatus was conceived, designed and constructed by the students. Necessary research, funding and planning were managed by the team members.

In less structured forms of interaction, John's exemplary character, vigor, and integrity have also been evident. A self-awareness and thoughtfulness shine in his conversation, discussion, and

informal debate; a willingness to consider all sides of an issue and to then confidently take a stance. He is well-liked and respected by his peers, and interacts with them easily. Growing up on a farm has instilled in him a love of nature and the outdoors, as well as a respect for physical work. While at department outings in the park playing football and other sports, his athletic skill, strength, and coordination are as evident as his enjoyment. He loves music deeply, and is professional in both his demeanor and his quality of performance. Generous in spirit, he has invited me and others in the department to his piano recitals so that he might share with us his delight in music.

John is a complete person—a true Renaissance man—possessing an ability to see his talents and goals within the philosophical framework of one striving for excellence and a meaningful purpose in life. He is a rarity—a balance of extraordinary talents with a sincere responsibility to use these talents wisely and generously. His scope of interests is broad, but his strong sense of direction and careful setting of priorities will prevent his multidimensionality from interfering with his success.

I believe, without reservations, that John will contribute to the Marshall Scholarship program more than he takes from it. He will surely make his mark in the world without the experience, but he has shown that he deserves encouragement and support. What a mutual honor it would be for this extraordinarily refined, bright, and original young scholar to become part of the Marshall Scholarship tradition!

Sincerely,

John Teacher

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Associate Professor

Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics