



South Hadley High School
153 Newton Street, South Hadley, MA 01075
Principal Elizabeth Wood
Assistant Principal Patrick Lemieux
Assistant Principal Mary Bonavita

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to recommend Colin Lumb for your scholarship award. I have known Colin since the beginning of his junior year from my Honors Engineering course. I also currently have Colin as a student in Honors Physics and AP Computer Science Principles. Colin has shown, and continues to show, that he has a strong work ethic in his classes to reach the high expectations he sets for himself. When working in groups, Colin has shown great leadership in the class setting to help his groups accomplish goals together. Finally, he has shown great perseverance in my classes, leading to great marks in every class he has been in with myself.

In my engineering classes, students learn basic concepts from the major fields of engineering. This includes civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, environmental, and computer engineering. The class is extremely hands-on. At the end of each unit, students use the concepts they learned to build a project that has specific parameters and supplies allowed. The projects can be demanding and difficult. However, Colin was never afraid to take on these challenges. He was one of the hardest working students I came across in engineering last year. One of the most difficult projects we have is the mousetrap car project. This involves students working in pairs to make a car that utilizes torque to propel itself forward twenty meters with very limited materials. Despite the difficulty of the project, Colin never backed down from the task. He rallied with his partner everyday and utilized the engineering design process to make an excellent final product. In the flashlight project, students use basic materials from home to make a flashlight out of recycled materials. He had an awesome idea of making his flashlight out of a recycled can and other materials. His final product was one of the best in his class. He should be proud of the hard work he put into the class on a daily basis.

With the difficulty of the projects mentioned, Colin found himself taking on a leadership role quite a bit in the class. With the two projects mentioned above, I would label Colin as the leader of both projects. He always led the conversations in a respectful, thoughtful manner to get his groups toward the end goal. In another project in which students were building complex Rube Goldberg machines, Colin took charge with his group and helped them realize that certain components of their project would not work as constructed. They made amendments to their machine up until the last day in the hopes of making it as predictable and consistent as possible.

Outside of the projects, there are also unit quizzes on each of the fields of engineering mentioned before. The quizzes are not easy, as students use algebra and conceptual concepts to apply to engineering fields discussed in class. Colin had trouble with the quizzes at first, but he showed grit and perseverance. He worked with me and his peers to fully understand the concepts of the class. This led to him getting one of the highest scores on our midterm exam. This grit and determination continued for the rest of the school year, and I still see it to this day in my current classes with him.

I believe Colin is worthy of your scholarship award due to his excellent work ethic, leadership skills, and his grit and determination to overcome obstacles in the classroom. I am happy to recommend him for this scholarship without reservation. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Richard Meigs
Physics & Engineering Teacher
South Hadley High School
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