

February 27, 2026

Re: Reference Letter for Jackson (Jack) Hancock

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to start by introducing myself and my relationship to Jack. I have a BS and MS in Civil Engineering and a PhD in Environmental Engineering and Sciences (I might note I am 6' 3.5" and have had my share of challenges with being long legged). I have over 12 years of experience in private consulting (multiple companies and on my own) and 29 years in teaching and research (University of Florida and South Dakota Mines). I have known Jack since he was a little boy, Jack is my daughter's nephew. I came to know Jack more after he lost his father and his family moved to the Rapid City area (over 15 years). We have interacted at many family gatherings; he has watched our home many times while we were out of town, and I have worked with him on several school projects.

I have worked with Jack on projects related to rivers and delta formation to helping him understand the mechanics of gear systems as he created parts on a 3D printer. He loves to figure things out and reverse engineer things. Over the past couple years Jack was drawn to job opportunities where he used his ingenuity and skills to serve others, two in particular were a job at a camp resort, Hart Ranch, which led to bike mechanic job at LOVE Inc (outreach ministry in Rapid City) where he was recognized for his service. as their lead bike mechanic, installed security cameras, and checked on cable connectivity and rebuilt electric bikes.

My grandson Leyton (2 years younger than Jack) and Jack also played together on a High School tennis team. During that time it was a joy to watch how Jack mentored the younger players and worked with them to build their skills as well as the potential for the team. Jack has a heart to help and serve others and is a great leader. Jack is very respectful, kind and considerate person and I put his integrity at the top of the scale. Jack's life experience has placed a higher demand on his levels of responsibility due to the loss of his father at a young age. I would put Jack's maturity level at or above his peers from the perspective of higher levels of responsibility.

Being homeschooled Jack has probably not had the recognition students can get in formal schools but I have no question that his skills, fortitude, compassion and desire to learn will strongly represent the purposes of the **Tall Club International Foundation** scholarship program. I have to admit before I took the time to learn more about Kae Sumner Einfeldt and the history of the TCIF I was unaware it existed. With that said I think Jack (who I know is a couple inches taller than me) can put his skills, knowledge and leadership into a strong post secondary education. With his creativity, who knows what he might develop or contribute to the challenges of being tall. I hope you see the same potential in Jack as I do and award him this valuable scholarship.



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