February 13, 2014

Stanford Medical Youth Science Program

Stanford Pre-Collegiate Studies
220 Panama St.
Ventura Hall
Stanford, CA 94305-4101

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write to you on behalf of Xia Her, a junior at Sacramento New Technology High School. I have known Xia for three years. She was an exemplary student in my English 9 class, and has been a member of my advisory class for three years. During this time, I have come to know Xia as a dedicated, hardworking, and motivated student, who I believe is a perfect candidate for the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program.

Xia’s family immigrated to the United States when she was seven years old. She is the eldest child in a family of eight, and as such has had to traverse the public school system by herself—while learning a new language—without the guidance of an experienced older sibling or parent. Xia is currently the most educated member of her family. She acknowledges that “it’s hard being the oldest and coming from an immigrant family with no education,” but understands that she is a role model for her siblings and that education is the key to her future. Xia seizes each and every educational opportunity available to her, whether that is seeking extra help from teachers after school or choosing to apply for the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program. It is this initiative and sense of responsibility that sets Xia apart from her peers and has earned her a total high school GPA of 3.83.

In today’s society, however, being academically strong isn’t enough. A student also needs those “soft skills” that make her well rounded and allow her to thrive both in college and career. Xia has gained and refined those skills over the past three years. By attending a school whose primary mode of instruction is Project Based Learning, Xia has polished and refined her collaboration skills by working with her peers to solve a variety of real-world problems. Working in groups is not an easy task, especially in high school, and Xia has proven time and time again that she is a valuable member of the team. She always has the success of the team in mind, listens to all team member ideas, is considerate while communicating her own views, and keeps the team organized and focused. Xia is also a seasoned public speaker, giving presentations in all of her classes not only to peers and teachers, but also to community members, such as Planned Parenthood. In short, Xia is a well-rounded student, a quality that I believe sets her apart from her peers.

What I love most about Xia, though, is her caring and compassionate heart. Xia is interested in the medical field, for example, because she loves to help people. She wants to transform lives. She wants to help those who are sick to become healthy so that they can live the best life that they can. Xia believes that a career in the medical field is one that she would love and enjoy doing every day, because each and every day she would be serving others. Personally, this is the type of doctor or nurse that I would want to come into contact with as a patient, because I know that they would always have my best interest in mind and I would feel safe and secure in their care.

I wholeheartedly believe that Xia would be an excellent choice for the Stanford Medical Youth Science Program. She has exceptional ability, a sense of responsibility, excellent interpersonal skills, a heart for others, and a motivation and initiative that are hard to match. I recommend her without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Christine Baker
English Teacher

Sacramento New Technology High School