



XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF [REDACTED]

1 Drexel Drive • [REDACTED]
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125-1098
[REDACTED]

June 20, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Ms. [REDACTED], a highly engaged student who has demonstrated an advanced understanding of how the medical career path can emerge jointly from one's interest in biological sciences, family medical history, and personal competency in communicating with others. [REDACTED]'s path toward medical school has developed along this very trajectory, and it is why I offer her an extremely strong recommendation. Based on my observation of [REDACTED]'s commitment inside the classroom and communication skills outside of it, I am confident that she will be successful in medical school and later as a practicing physician.

I first met [REDACTED] in January 2009 when she enrolled in my [REDACTED] course, later earning an A. She later took my [REDACTED] course, where she also earned an A. In both courses, [REDACTED] established herself as a serious, committed student who took interest not only in classroom presentation assignments but the impact that her work might have on her audience. While I'm sure earning a high grade in the course motivated her work, [REDACTED] also demonstrated that she understood the value of communication and aesthetic skills outside of the classroom. In [REDACTED], she took her [REDACTED] assignments seriously, choosing topics with direct relevance to improving campus life at Xavier. In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] explored a topic that should prove useful as she progresses through her medical training: the ways that our everyday behaviors are organized and presented as performances of identity. [REDACTED] investigated how gender and race, especially, influence the ways people present themselves in everyday life. Her skillful analysis and presentation of this material suggest that she understands the nuances of interacting with diverse others.

She proved this skill set outside of the classroom by participating in a semester-long undergraduate research project in the humanities. [REDACTED] took her gender/race performance analysis from the [REDACTED] class and worked with another professor to develop it more fully and present it at a national undergraduate performance festival. She then attended a second performance festival a semester later. After talking to faculty colleagues who attended both events, [REDACTED] repeatedly was mentioned as someone who interacted professionally and skillfully with undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors.

This latter compliment does not surprise me, as [REDACTED] consistently demonstrated effective group communication skills in both my courses. She skillfully adapted her role to fit the needs of the group dynamics during class discussion. I have witnessed her take

on a wide range of positions during group exercises, including leadership, negotiator, and secretary roles. In every case, though, it is clear that [REDACTED] values group work and collaborates well with her peers. She is also a polished public speaker. I believe her communication competence will prove invaluable as she moves through medical school.

As her curriculum vitae evidences, [REDACTED] has been fully engaged in the New Orleans community since coming to Xavier. Even at a school whose social justice mission encourages volunteerism, [REDACTED] is special. Her sustained participation with several mentoring/tutoring projects (e.g. Peace Players International; American Red Cross Scrubby Bear Program) demonstrates that her volunteerism satisfies personal, not institutional needs. She has also volunteered to mentor Xavier freshmen making the transition into Xavier. I believe this spirit of community engagement is a key component of [REDACTED]'s identity and will continue throughout her medical career.

I hope my reasons for offering such a high recommendation for Ms. [REDACTED] are clear. I appreciate the opportunity to write on her behalf. Please contact me personally at [REDACTED] or via e-mail [REDACTED] if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Xavier University of Louisiana