All Star Code - Pittsburgh
Ascender
6401 Penn Avenue, 3rd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.512.5208
sean@allstarcode.org

October 29, 2018

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Marcus Stevens, D.O.B. 08/09/2001

To Whom It May Concern,

Hope this finds you well. This letter of recommendation is to support Marcus Stevens' application for the Outstanding Young Citizen Scholarship. I am honored to provide insight about his exemplary skills as a student, mentor, scholar, and instructor. I met Marcus in the summer of 2017 when he attended the first All Star Code Summer Intensive pilot program in Pittsburgh, PA, based in NYC. Marcus is a natural leader, intelligent, respectful, and eager to help others.

The Summer Intensive is a 6-week, full-time coding program focused on minority high school boys who develop computer science skills, a growth mindset, and networks they need to succeed in technology. Our students are personally introduced to the tech industry through site visits to companies like Google, Duolingo, and Uber, and they engage with a number of guest speakers who are professional men of color in tech. They also develop soft skills such as public speaking, interviewing, and writing a resume. This summer 2018, he returned as a Teaching Fellow to give back to the new group of students entering the program where he shared responsibility of 12 high school students with a team of 3 staff for 6 weeks, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

When I first met Marcus, I was impressed with his maturity and ability to lead by example. As a student in 2017, Marcus was attentive and showed a great deal of respect to the instructional staff, fellow students, and set the standard of how to behave and engage during site visits and with guest speakers. Marcus took full advantage of the opportunities offered during the program and has since been an active member of the growing Alumni network.

After the program culminated, Marcus attended a pilot after school program we established with Google in Pittsburgh to further his computer science education and to help others with their coding skills. He has also been a guest speaker at community events to share his experience and inspire others. As an instructor, Marcus connected effortlessly with the students to ensure they were all comfortable and understood the material. He supported his fellow instructors, as well. One team member shared, "some of us are introverted so having Marcus' bubbly personality there to offset our personalities helped us grow as individuals and created lifelong friendships."

Overall, Marcus is passionate about seeing others succeed, cares deeply about his community, and is dedicated to being a good friend. This positive outlook is encouraging to see in such a motivated young man. The opportunity to continue his higher education at your esteemed institution will prepare him for a future of endless possibilities and success.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a few words about Marcus. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 412.512.5208 or sean@allstarcode.org.

Sincerely,

Sean Gray
Pittsburgh Area Director
All Star Code