

# CYNTHIA A. POMPELIA

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Dear Selection Committee:

Joyce Yin has my highest recommendation for your scholarship. She possesses several scholastic and personal qualities that support this recommendation.

I recently retired from teaching at Greater Latrobe Senior High School, during which time I typically taught AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, an engineering class, and chemistry. I also served as Teacher Leader of the Mathematics Department. Without a doubt, Joyce Yin was one of the most outstanding students I had the opportunity to teach during my twenty-year career.

Last year Joyce was a student in my Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC class. She excelled academically in a very demanding course, consistently maintaining one of the highest grades in the class, and she scored a 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam. She masters new concepts quickly and is able to apply them to different situations. Her success in this class, the highest level traditional mathematics course offered at our school, is particularly noteworthy, given that she was the only one in her class of over 300 students who qualified to take the class as a junior. During her senior year she will have the opportunity to explore advanced calculus concepts typically taught in a third or fourth semester of college calculus, through an online, independent learning course that I developed for her.

Just as important as Joyce's academic ability are her attitude and work effort. She is a very intelligent, disciplined, and determined student with a strong and genuine desire to learn. She works diligently and does not shy away from the challenges of a difficult curriculum. She is consistently and thoroughly prepared for class and contributes positively to the class. Moreover, she is willing to ask questions to better understand and further explore the concepts. I often observed Joyce working with and helping other students to learn the material. I am confident that I could have put Joyce in any group of students, and she would collaborate, facilitate and lead the group in a productive, creative, and constructive manner. She also has the ability, study skills, and innate curiosity necessary to be an independent learner and to succeed in future educational pursuits, including scientific research.

Joyce's future plans include pursuing a career in chemical engineering, and she continues to prepare herself for this. Not only does she have a strong aptitude and interest in mathematics and science courses, but she has participated in related activities beyond the classroom, including the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute, Girls who Code, Mathletes, Science Olympiad, Excelsa Health Exploring Program, University of Dayton Women in Engineering Camp, and job shadowing of health care and engineering professionals. This fall Joyce is enrolled in an engineering internship, the Young Engineers Program, which is a unique partnership our school has with a local large manufacturing facility through which the students work with and learn from engineers at their research facility and headquarters.

Joyce's interests are also well-rounded and impressive, as evidenced by her participation in varsity swimming and track and field, and several leadership activities including Student Council, Link Crew (through which students mentor incoming freshmen yearlong to ease their transition to the senior high school), Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, and class officer. It is particularly noteworthy that her peers elected her as officer or captain of nearly every organization Joyce is involved with. Knowing Joyce, I am confident she will be a committed, inspiring, and effective leader.

I especially admire and appreciate Joyce's outstanding character and friendly nature. Her integrity is beyond reproach. Joyce is committed to helping others both informally as a tutor and through organized service projects. These qualities, coupled with her academic talents, maturity, responsibility, work ethic, and motivation, make her an outstanding young woman.

I am fully confident that not only will Joyce Yin thrive in Penn State's engineering program, but she will be a strong asset. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia A Pompelia*

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