Letter of Recommendation:
Diego Sandoval

To: The Scholarship Committee.

Diego Sandoval is one of the most disciplined and persistent students I have had the pleasure of teaching. Diego makes sure to pay close attention in class and does not rely on merely “steps” to solve problems. One of the keys to his success is his development in conceptual knowledge. Diego wants to know “why” mathematical processes work, over that they just do. To ensure he comprehends mathematics, he pursues asking questions that support conceptual and strategic thinking. As a teacher this is exciting to see in a student, especially in math.

One of the many strengths of Diego is his ability to be reflective. After each assessment, he wants to learn more about his strengths and areas for opportunity. Through this analysis he is able to look at his study habits and why he was successful as well as understand his misconceptions. As a part of a daily routine in our class, students have to rate their knowledge level (1-5), and then address areas of points of confusion. As I read through Deigo’s daily self-assessments it is clear to me that he is intent upon bettering himself in all aspects of his academics.

Diego is a student that anyone would want on their team. Diego strives to support all his teammates and when necessary lead them with well organized and growth minded opportunities. There have been several opportunities where he has been in a group learning experience. One that comes to mind is when they had to create a slide presentation about Implicit Differentiation. The students did not know anything about the subject and had to break into independent tasks. The tasks were based on a project management concept; they included a historian, mathematician, tech writer, technology and a layout and design person. Diego was the Project Manager and led his team with a very impressive presentation and the students in his group all understood the topic after completion. This type of project requires a leader to keep his teammates motivated, stay on task, as well as supportive in each of their roles.

Finally, I have known Diego through his parents for about 10 years. It is such a pleasure to see him grow through the years. It was also amazing to see the number of activities and accomplishments he has made in his extracurricular activities. Teaching him directly last year in Trig/Math Analysis and currently AP Calculus has allowed me to see him demonstrate his knowledge and comprehension of the material and perseverance in solving challenging problems (Each class he received A’s). I am proud of who he is as a scholar and a person. It is an honor to be able to recommend him for a scholarship.

5/16/26
Derek Dykstra
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