



A Joint Powers project of  
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January 28, 2022

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR BRANDON XIONG**  
**RE: Honors and Leadership Program at the University of Colorado Denver**

Dear Honors and Leadership Program Directors:

At the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) in Clovis, CA, juniors and seniors spend three hours per day (M-F) in a career technical lab of choice. Every lab also has an English teacher. Last year, Brandon Xiong was a student in my English 11 Honors class in CART's Cybersecurity lab. Currently, Brandon is in my English 12 Honors class in CART's Web Application Development lab.

In the Cybersecurity lab, Brandon quickly stood out as a hardworking, intellectually curious student. Although much of the course was completed via Zoom, Brandon was almost always the first to join the session and consistently added flavor to the course through his questions and analysis of text. Brandon was such a standout that he was handpicked to apply for a leadership position as a CART Ambassador. He was ultimately selected by our administration to fill that role.

This year, with in-person learning, Brandon is even more impressive. He works effectively on team projects, completes all assignments, and conducts himself in a mature and responsible manner. He is a role-model for others, as well. If I ever need to leave the classroom for a moment, I put Brandon in charge. Furthermore, Brandon is willing to go above and beyond what is expected of students both academically and behaviorally. For example, another student in our class is very intelligent but is on the autism spectrum. At times, this student became frustrated when he was not sure how to proceed with an assignment. To help the student, Brandon was seated right next to him. Throughout class on a daily basis, the student asks Brandon clarifying questions and the like. Although Brandon is sometimes interrupted from his own work to help, he does so in a friendly, patient, respectful, and professional manner.

In addition, since the Cybersecurity and Web Application Development labs are part of a Career Technical Education Program, a curricular focus on professionalism (on and offline), employability skills, career exploration, teamwork, and effective communication in college and in a career are embedded in the curriculum. Brandon exceeds our high expectations in these areas.

Brandon Xiong truly is an outstanding candidate for the Honors and Leadership Program at the University of Colorado Denver. I have been a classroom teacher for over 25 years. Brandon is among the top 5% of students with whom I have worked. I give him my highest recommendation for Denver's honors and leadership program.

Sincerely,

Jodi Silva  
CART English instructor