**Intellectual Merit**

**Overall Assessment: Excellent**

Your research experience and academic record place you suggest the very highest potential for success in independent biochemistry/structural biology research. Your research project was written at a level approaching that of a seasoned researcher. However, it would have enhanced your proposal even further had you spent a little more time contextualizing the importance of 3-D structures to understanding the mechanisms of membrane fusion, and how you would use the information you would obtain in your studies.

**Overall Assessment: Excellent**

The applicant is exceptional in a number of ways, from her perfect grade point average in college at Colorado State University, to her significant experience in performing and communicating high-quality research, to her well-written and original proposal that builds on a rotation project at Stanford.

**Overall Assessment: Excellent**

This candidate has excellent academic credentials, but curiously did not take advanced mathematics (mult variabl calc and diff eq). She has chosen to perform structural biology studies at an outstanding institution. She writes an engaging and imaginative personal statement. She has received numerous academic and scientific awards. Her research project, probing the mechanism of vesicle fusion is timely and interesting. She has a clear, testable hypothesis. The only weakness is the absence of a discussion of the significance of the problem.

**Broader Impacts**

**Overall Assessment: Very Good**

Your statements and references indicate that you very effectively convey your excitement for science and learning. You suggest innovations for using structural data in teaching. Through your involvement with SACNAS you propose to enable the participation of underrepresented groups directly in your graduate research. You could have been somewhat more specific as to how you would specifically carry this out.

**Overall Assessment: Excellent**

Every indication is that this applicant will become a role model in science. Her involvement with the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) was unexpected and interesting. Her current involvement with the BioBridge mentoring program at Stanford suggests that her interest in encouraging promising young minority scientists was not simply a passing fad.

**Overall Assessment: Good**

This applicant is a proven leader. She was active in a Student leadership group that served as judges in local science fairs. She mentored high school and undergraduate students in the laboratory where she worked. She has a well defined history and plan to continue working with the community. She has worked with SACNAS as an undergrad and is currently involved in a mentoring program.