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Reference for Charlie Nitschelm

Charlie was a student in a class I just finished teaching to 26 students entitled ME 561 – Introduction to Materials Science. He sits in the front row, comes to most classes, and asks pertinent and thoughtful questions. He received a B in my class, his first grade that was not an A or A- (I guess I'm a hardass). He is a confident and thoughtful student who takes responsibility for his learning successes and failures. ME 561 is a required class for mechanical engineers and many of them view it as an undesirable class similar to chemistry.

He is also a sophomore team member of a team competing in a rocket building competition. He has exhibited strong drive in helping the team achieve their goals. When we have met, Charlie is engaged, listens well, and thinks well on his feet. He is more mature in his thought processes than most of his peers but has not yet gone through the transition in academic performance strategies I see for most students after their Sophomore year (which he has not yet completed).

Charlie is one of those highly motivated and confident people who I believe are capable of achieving excellence in the areas they consider to be important. He attaches significant importance to schoolwork but it does not always appear to be his highest priority. He is highly focused on the rocket team and, while he does not ignore his studies, I think his participation on the team may displace some of his focus on schoolwork. That being said, his high academic achievement, a GPA of 3.84/4 so far, indicates he is highly intelligent and capable of multi-tasking with a great degree of success.

So far, Charlie is a top student who exhibits the ability to focus on multiple areas with creativity and excellence. He has an entrepreneurial flair. I view Charlie as a highly desirable candidate for the NIST program.

Regards,

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Professor of Mechanical Engineering

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