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**Re: A strong letter of recommendation for Eric Xiao**

To any university admissions team anywhere:

Every year I see 5-10 hotshot coders in my CS classes. Eric Xiao was one of these to be sure, but his skills go far beyond the keyboard.

Eric took every assignment I gave him and drove it five levels beyond what I asked. For instance, in my grade 12 CS class, I have students choose a real-world phenomenon to model, such as urban sprawl, predator-prey dynamics, etc., and then code their model as an animation. Eric created a cellular automaton simulation of how the illumination level across a region varies with urban lighting, the angle of the sun, random disruptions to the power grid, and weather patterns. For another assignment, Eric wrote an object-oriented program in Processing that reads in a list of events for a hackathon as a text file, and auto-generates the HTML code for a web page that lays out the events in an orderly, eye-catching way.

Eric is a strong team player. In 2019, Eric and three teammates competed in the ECOO coding contest. His team advanced to the Ontario provincial finals, after taking 3rd place in the regional competition. At a hackathon that took place at our school, Eric and his teammates won 2nd place for building an offline Google services platform.

Eric also shows leadership on the personal scale. In my grade 11 class, Eric mentored a weaker student in a two-person team coding project. Knowing he could have moved more quickly on his own, Eric patiently retaught his partner some basic coding concepts that his partner had been missing, as well as helping her understand the math needed for the actual assignment.

Eric Xiao will thrive in any field and program that admits him. Please give him the opportunity to study at the highest level his bright mind and generous personality is capable of. Feel free to contact me if you'd like to further discuss Eric's potential.

Best regards,

Jason Schattman