There are several reasons I am a worthy candidate for the Wally Stoelzel Physics Scholarship and Fellowship Award. First, I am very interested in physics and have an aptitude for the subject. I have been fascinated by physics ever since my freshman year of high school, when I took my first physics class. Since then, my experience with physics has included an AP Physics class, which I took as an independent study my senior year of high school, and the Honors Physics 121/122 class and lab at ASU. I excelled in both, (I received a 5 on the AP test and an A in both PHYS 121 and 122.) and have maintained a high level of interest in physics.

Second, I plan to pursue a career as a physics professor at a research university. I have always enjoyed mentoring and tutoring others, and have always expected that I would eventually become a teacher. During high school I completed over 20 service hours tutoring my high school peers as a part of the National Honors Society, and I often mentored my classmates in my math and science classes.

Third, although I do receive some financial aid through ASU, there is still a significant amount of money I must generate myself in order to finance my education, (my parents do not plan on paying the remainder of my college bills.) Thus, it is necessary for me to work during the summers, and I may eventually need to start working during the semester as well, especially considering the forecasted raise in tuition. This scholarship money would lessen my financial burden, thereby enabling me to focus most of my time and energy on my studies and research opportunities, rather than on working.

As I am only a second semester freshman, I am not currently a part of any research projects, and I have not yet determined which specific area in physics research I would like to become involved with. However, I am intrigued by astronomy and astrophysics, so I would be interested in pursuing a research project in those fields. Thank you for your time, and I hope you will consider me for the Wally Stoelzel Physics Scholarship and Fellowship Award.