**Letter of Recommendation**

Having done my Master’s in Electrical Engineering (specialized courses in Mixed Signal VLSI Design) from University of Southern California and with a view of teaching Circuit Design in Mumbai, India I joined Vivekanand Education Society’s Institute of Technology, affiliated to University of Mumbai. Beyond academic curriculum, my role here is to design and teach courses on Front and Back End Integrated Circuit Design on EDA tools. Such courses taught by me are open for students all over Mumbai to join and learn. I also had the opportunity to mentor teams which won the prestigious Cadence Design Contest and others which have been finalists. Currently, two of my teams have qualified for the Texas Instruments Innovation Challenge (India Analog Design Contest 2014).

I am aware of the pre-requisites required for a graduate program. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Ms. Priyanka Patil for the Masters program at your university. I got acquainted to her during a course on VLSI Design in the second year. It was phenomenal to see her prosper in a course that is usually designed for junior and senior year students. Her understanding of the concepts and the subsequent application in assignments and projects was prodigious.

One of the teams that I had mentored for the Cadence Design Contest was presenting their idea award winning idea of Vedic Co-Processors and I encouraged her to attend the event. I decided to further tap her potential by recommending books by Computer Architecture stalwarts like David Harris and John Hennessy. She started implementing the MIPS processor architecture. Her passion toward the subject was evident through the pace and accuracy at which she completed the project, coding and troubleshooting her way through one of the more complex designs in the domain. I am yet to see a design that is so neat, efficient and thoroughly verified.

She was a natural selection in the team nominated to contest for the following year’s Cadence Design Contest. Her team was developing a system called Kognito. It was a Cognitive Keyboard with special design features incorporated to speed-up the non-tactile typing process. Without a doubt, it was the most innovative and ambitious project I had ever seen a team undertake. Priyanka was an integral part of the team and contributed to the project with her superior design and coding skills. I could see her ardor for the subject when she worked long hours, day in and day out, to complete the project, making the steep deadline look remarkably light. Her attitude to get a highly complex design running and functional along with her ability to keep other members motivated was remarkable.

I assigned her as my Teaching Assistant for the same course she had taken about a year ago. Her confidence and control over the subject matter reflected in the way she effortlessly taught the students and developed the perfect solutions against which she and the other TAs graded the designs. Needless to say, she excelled at the job.

The following year, I taught her a course on Advanced VLSI System Design. During the entire semester, her attention was absolute and she displayed remarkable mental acuity answering complex questions. She was disciplined and driven, bearing a true testimony to her achievements over the past year. She took a liking to the backend aspects of VLSI through SRAM designs. She is well versed with physical design, place and route techniques and static timing analysis and I think that makes her a well-rounded student of the subject.

In my opinion, Priyanka is one of the finest students to come out of V.E.S. Institute of Technology with expertise in the field of front-end as well as back-end VLSI Design. I cannot wait for her to shine on a global platform and strongly recommend her to the graduate program at your university.

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