

February 10, 2022

Dear Selection Committee:

Itzel is a driven and curious person.

I met Itzel at the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester in the class Introduction to Engineering Design and Manufacturing. In this class, students work on a 10-week team project to design a solution for a need presented by an external client. In this work, Itzel demonstrated his strong work ethic and persistent curiosity – always wanting to delve more deeply into the content. In our meetings, Itzel demonstrated a strong desire to receive critical feedback and to reflect and ask for clarification on feedback that was previously given. These efforts demonstrate her commitment to growing as an individual and as an engineer. In this design effort, she, along with another member on her team, ushered their design work toward success by integrating feedback. As to her work ethic, Itzel is also a devoted collegiate athlete in cross country and track and field for the Claremont-Mudd-Scripps running program. During the online school year, she trained everyday by herself despite not being able to compete due to COVID, which clearly communicates her drive and dedication. This drive is also evident in her academic ability and work ethic.

Itzel's growth as an engineer and growing expertise in science, mathematics, and engineering courses indicate that she can be a successful student in your program. Itzel is interested in the interdisciplinary problems and hopes to pursue advanced study after graduating from Mudd at the intersection of mechanical, chemical, and biomedical engineering. Itzel looks forward to a future of creating engineered solutions in service marginalized communities. Due to this, she is concentrating in anthropology (similar to a minor), as she believes that it's important to be aware of other people's cultures and context to better serve them through engineering. She is taking additional courses in environmental analysis to understand environmental racism and the impact engineering techniques/designs can have on the environment. Apart from experiencing academic endeavors, her ability to focus on creative problem solving would be an asset that could be further developed by a summer research experience at Clarkson.

I would happily answer additional questions. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Steven Santana
Assistant Professor of Engineering
Harvey Mudd College
301 Platt Blvd
Claremont, CA 91711-5990
909.607.7114