Writing a Rhodes Recommendation Letter

Letters of recommendation play an important role in a student’s application for the Rhodes Scholarship. If you feel that you cannot write an unequivocally supportive recommendation letter, please decline to write the letter.

When asking for a recommendation letter, the student should provide you with:

- Information about the Rhodes Scholarship (www.rhodesscholar.org);
- His/her personal statement, proposal of study, and details about his/her extracurricular activities;
- An outline of why he/she is applying for the scholarship;
- A list of the types of things he/she would like you to remember about them when writing the letter of recommendation.

Suggestions on how to write a letter of recommendation:

- The letter should be both glowing and genuine.
- Give details and/or examples to back up any claims you make.
- Discuss the student’s personal characteristics and intellectual ability (the scholarship is looking for well-rounded individuals).
- Only make true statements that you can validate.
- Do not give class ranking, unless the student is first in a class.
- Please send me a copy of your letter of recommendation for my files so that I may help the student prepare for interview questions. (I will not reveal the contents of the letter, but rather inform the student of things he/she should review before the interview.)

Items you should address in a Rhodes recommendation letter:

- Proven intellectual and academic quality of the highest standard;
- Integrity of character and demonstrated interest in and respect for his/her fellow beings;
- The ability to lead and the energy to use his/her talents to the full.

Also, I will be happy to review letters of recommendation and make suggestions.

Carolyn Tuitupou
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Education
& National Scholarships, Fellowships, and Programs
102B MSRB
Provo, UT 84602
(801) 422-6136
Carolyn_Tuitupou@byu.edu