INFORMATION FOR GOLDWATER RECOMMENDERS
(From National Selection Committee & Goldwater Foundation)

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR RECOMMENDERS!

Recommendation Letter Advice and Instructions for Submission of Letters

- Please submit your Letter of Recommendation electronically as an email attachment to goldbeja@lafayette.edu or externalscholarships@lafayette.edu. The letter should be signed and on letterhead. It should be attached as a WORD document.

- Letters of recommendation must adhere to the following formatting instructions:
  - Up to 3 pages
  - 1” margins on all sides
  - Ariel Roman font no smaller than 12-point
  - Letterhead & Signed

- IMPT: You are no longer able to upload your letter to the Goldwater application site. Once we receive your finalized letter for any nominated student, I will be uploading the letter to the student’s application. This is a new procedure dictated by the Goldwater Foundation. As in the past, your letter is confidential; that is, the applicant will be able to see your letter unless you show it to him/her.

- Goldwater selection committee readers expect detailed letters that convey the following:
  - Letters should concentrate on the applicant’s motivation and potential for a research career. (It is OK for the applicant to be a ‘nerd’; the applicant’s success in your course is assumed).
  - Letters should indicate how the applicant demonstrates that s/he is able to “make meaning from science” – e.g., from learning effective benchmark practices to a commitment to and passion for STEM practices.
  - Applicants who have not engaged in research at the time of application may demonstrate intellectual curiosity in other ways, including discussions with you on research or theory.
  - Applicants may also demonstrate their abilities and potential by meeting significant responsibilities, involvement in STEM student organizations, relevant employment or internships, etc.
  - Letters must speak to/about the applicant’s research and be consistent with the applicant’s claims throughout his/her application.
  - Letters that compare applicant to others who have gone on to outstanding PhD programs/research careers can be beneficial.
  - Letters from Research Mentors should help the national selection committee readers:
    - Understand the context in which you know the applicant
    - Gain an insight into the applicant’s abilities and motivations for research
    - Understand how the student contributed to the work and the importance of his/her contribution/s
    - Assess the student’s originality, intellectual daring, insight, creativity, perseverance and integrity by describing a specific instance or instances where this was observed
  - Letter from non-research mentors should comment on
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- Characteristics that make the student a successful researcher (examples might include observations derived from the student’s presentation/s, discussions you have had with the student about his/her work and career plans, etc.)
- If you had the student in a course, you should discuss, where applicable, aspects of the course that are pertinent to the student’s career/research aspirations or otherwise serve as an indication that the student’s performance is indicative of his/her future research success.

Questions? Please contact Dean Goldberg at:
610.330.5067 or externalscholarships@lafayette.edu or goldbeja@lafayette.edu.