



These guidelines are to be provided to the individual writing your recommendation.

Recommendation Guidelines

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, initiated the Multicultural Vision Program Award to recognize and reward young people who want to better their opportunities through a college education. The program is specifically targeted toward students of color who demonstrate academic ability, uncommon persistence and maturity despite adverse life situations.

The Multicultural Vision Program Award is given to 100 Iowa minority high school seniors who must be American Indian or Alaskan Native (tribal enrolled member), African American, Asian American/ Pacific Islander or Latino/a. They must also be admissible to Iowa State University and have faced challenges of personal and/or financial hardship. The awards are granted on the basis of character, ability to overcome adversity, academic commitment, financial need and other qualities. The program seeks students with a sense of their potential and a commitment to hard work despite their life circumstances. These awards are designed to demonstrate Iowa State University's commitment to the student potential that exists in various ways beyond the measures of class rank or standardized test scores.

This program will annually provide 100 minority Iowa high school seniors with full, resident tuition to attend Iowa State University. The award is available for up to eight (8) semesters of full-time study. Students may major in any curriculum and must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average after four semesters for award renewal. In return, the recipients will give back to their high schools and neighborhoods through peer advising, high school visits and other outreach programs, with the intention of inspiring other young people to similar academic achievement. Selection is based on the student's eligibility and potential, as demonstrated through the application, letter of recommendation, and financial need analysis. The MVP Award Advisory Council, a committee of state educators, will select the recipients.

Your candor in assessing this candidate's character, personality, potential and intellectual ability will be invaluable to the Selection Committee in identifying candidates for this award. We encourage you to utilize the following classifications in the context of your letter.

- Recommended with reservations
- Recommended
- Strongly recommended
- Enthusiastically recommended

Please be sure the following information is listed in your letter of recommendation:

- Name of Applicant
- High School
- Date
- Recommender's Name
- Recommender's Signature
- Recommender's Phone Number
- Title/Relation to Applicant

Following are some questions to assist you in shaping your recommendation. Please list the applicant's name and high school on each page of your recommendation. If you choose to answer any of the questions directly, please number your answers to correspond to the questions. You also may opt to write in a general "letter of recommendation" format.

1. If you know the student in an academic setting, please comment on the student's motivation and quality of work. Discuss the student's willingness to take risks, initiate discussion, grapple with difficult concepts or issues. Evaluate his or her overall intellectual potential.
2. Does this individual take leadership roles in school or the community? Does he or she show initiative in organizing groups or events, or act as mentor or role model to peers or others? Has the student been involved in volunteer work or in a job situation with significant responsibility?
3. Are there unusual circumstances in the applicant's life, either personal or academic, through which he or she has shown unusual persistence, resilience or strength or character? Is there optimism and a sense of potential in the candidate's plans for the future?
4. Does this individual interact well with peers, teachers, family and others? Does he or she show compassion for others in adverse circumstances? Does he or she exhibit a sense of equity and inclusion?
5. Has the student assumed significant responsibility in the household? Does he or she maintain a rigorous work schedule in lieu of extracurricular activities? Has the student been challenged to balance personal circumstances and academic obligations? What personal challenges of personal and/or financial hardship has the student faced?
6. Describe any special talents, skills or interest that distinguish the candidate from his or her peers.

We appreciate your participation in nominating this student for the Multicultural Vision Program and your efforts on behalf of the applicant. If you have any questions concerning this form or would like more information about the MVP award, please contact the Multicultural Vision Program at 800 262-3810.