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How will an international education help me make a difference in the world?"

Inspired by Nobel laureate Andre Gide's philosophy that "Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore," I set forth on a journey of a lifetime to discover myself and the lands and waters that I hadn't touched.

I can say without hesitation that I had earned the opportunity to descry a new culture, a new system of education, and a new perspective on our ever-changing world and the result has been life changing. All this time I was finding it difficult to understand my passion in life and my purpose to the world? It is after coming here that I finally found the answer, found my ambition. Of the few ways that could shape a new world, I chose Engineering to become my companion. Through engineering I have learned the skill of problem solving and understood that Necessity is certainly the mother of invention. With my perception of the world today, I see that necessity of peace and tranquility is certainly the mother of invention of those minds that wish to see beyond the self and desire peace for the world. With my current major of Engineering it might seem absurd that I have such goals but I have discovered that with the knowledge that I have gained so far, not only have I developed intellectually but I have reached a different state of maturity and the state of self-awareness which has pushed me beyond just thinking about solving problems and equations. I further reassured myself of this vision of a world with more aware and conscious people, during my short visit back to Nepal this January. I was shocked to see how people were living a life of ignorance. And the fact that I once belonged to the same community dazed me. I questioned why people had so much fear and hatred in them? Why were they

others in need. Education being the root of any advancement I shall be able to make people think above them and help them learn about the world around and I am hoping to make my own country the starting point. It is only when we share that we find a common ground to work for common good. If I share what I will be learning throughout my stay in the US, at least with people back home (them being the closest approach I can make), that would be one more layer of brick added to the construction of the structure of world integrity.

These might sound like farfetched words but my vision is pragmatic. Making a difference in the world is not an easy task but again it's not impossible. To put it in a nutshell the answer to the question "How will an international education help me make a difference in the world?" is that an international education will help me give back the knowledge and the power to obliterate nescience to the people who are still in the darkness of ignorance. As an individual, I know one thing for certain is that to change the world, one must start with "the man in the mirror" and I guess I have already excelled that part, thanks to this enlightening experience called "International education."



March 1, 2012

To the LewerMark Scholarship Committee:

This is a letter of support and recommendation for Sajjan K.C. who has indicated he is applying for your scholarship. Sajjan is a very talented and dependable young man who is a student in our engineering program. He is a very good candidate for your scholarship.

I am an associate professor of engineering and physics at a Loras College, small private college in Dubuque, IA. During the last two years, Sajjan has been a student in four of my courses which includes one he is currently enrolled in. In the previous three, he has earned grades of A, which placed him academically within the top 25% of each class. In fact, he was the top overall student in his EGR 231 Statics course during the fall of 2011. From his past performance, I have high expectations of him as he continues in two courses I am currently teaching (EGR 236 Strength of Materials and EGR 334 Thermodynamics) that he is currently enrolled in. He is intelligent, on task, well organized, and engaged to learn. At Loras College we've had a number of students from Nepal in our program. Quite honestly, some have had difficulty communicating well and struggle with the nuances of culture. This is not true of Sajjan. He seems to catch the subtle differences better than most of his peers. He communicates well and catches on quickly. He comes across as a mature, insightful, hardworking, and has very good attention to detail. He's a very sharp student and has the work ethic to back it up.

For these reasons I can strongly recommend Sajjan for this scholarship. He will represent both himself and our school well as he works toward completion of his degree and then takes on new challenges. I think he's a worthy candidate for your scholarship. Please consider his application. If you have any additional questions about Sajjan's qualifications, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Clark Merkel
Associate Professor of Engineering and Physics
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563-588-7186

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. T. Merkel".