



COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, INFORMATION, AND MEDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

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February 2016

To: Indiana Journalist of the Year Selection Committee  
From: Kim Green, Outreach Coordinator and graphics instructor  
Re: Lillyanne Pham, candidate

I have had the pleasure of knowing Lillyanne Pham for three years since she joined the staff of our national award-winning newsmagazine The Triangle and distinguishing herself as a future superstar. Her impact on the publication has been powerful. Team player, problem-solver, writer, designer, leader - she has worn many hats with the maturity and tact of a seasoned professional. In fact, she was named to an Executive Editor role as a junior in charge of infographics. But she did so much more! Lillyanne led her fellow staffers to produce one of the best volumes of The Triangle yet!

As a senior, Lillyanne continues to serve as an Executive Editor in charge of indepth story coverage. That her peers respect her as a leader is evident in all situations - from directing class meetings, to coaching writers and designers on the newsmagazine staff, to determining content and assignments, to trouble-shooting problems. She is the best type of leader - one who finds a way to engage all participants and gives them the satisfaction of ownership. Valuing the talents, ideas and contributions of all involved, Lillyanne brings out the best in others by working in the trenches with them, shoulder-to-shoulder.

As a newsmagazine expert, Lillyanne knows no peer. She is truly one of the best I've had the privilege of teaching. She has a keen sense of visual and verbal storytelling, and her work has earned her special recognition in our publications' critiques from the National Scholastic Press Association and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association as well as individual honors on the state level. In fact, the editions she has worked on have earned CSPA Crown awards, NSPA Best of Show awards as well as an IHSPA Hoosier Star Finalist honors. Her contribution to the future of The Triangle after she leaves is outstanding, setting the bar for newsmagazine excellence at the highest level.

This young woman can make everyone involved feel empowered and special with merely a smile and a gentle nudge. Lillyanne is a problem-solver -- a truly creative thinker. She is well-read and up on what is happening in the world. Her Facebook posts aren't about the dance or her car. She finds serious topics covered by serious news outlets and shares them with her peers. She truly gets the purpose of journalism -- to make the world a better place through challenging the thinking of her peers and researching and reporting on issues that can save their lives. Her seriousness of purpose puts her head and shoulders above her peers, yet she uses the lightest touches to get the most from everyone around her! This edition of The Triangle will be nationally-recognized because Lillyanne's influences are everywhere. When she is in charge, everything will get done beautifully with all involved feeling empowered, excited and ready for the next challenge. Her maturity, wisdom, wit and intelligence make her a shining example of commitment, loyalty and perseverance for all to model. She will continue to be a powerful force beyond high school.

She is truly a Journalist of the Year! We will hear great things about this young woman!

# Columbus North High School

David D. Clark, Principal

John Green, Assistant Principal

Susan Scott, Assistant Principal

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1 February 2016

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to write a letter of recommendation for Lillyanne Pham, a senior at Columbus North High School. In a word, Lillyanne is a delight to be around. Her intense desire to learn is infectious and where ever she goes, others are blessed.

Over and over again, Lillyanne makes a difference at CNHS. Her involvement is both academic and athletic. She has been recognized by diverse groups such as being recognized by her volleyball team as the Mental Attitude winner and by the AIA Indiana High School Architectural Design organization to her recognitions from her work in journalism.

She challenges herself by taking the more rigorous courses. Her attention to detail is impressive. Her work is excellent. Her commitment to being the best she can be is as strong as anyone's. Her skill lies not in the grade, but in the effort to learn.

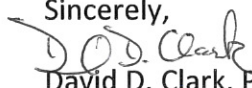
One of the things that I most like about Lillyanne is her desire to try new opportunities and be successful at it. As a sophomore, she tried out for a drama production, having had no previous training, and made the cut. As a junior she decided she wanted to sing in our community talent show. She had never sung in a choir or group prior to this experience, but once again, she made the cut and sang in front of 1300 community members.

I will never forget the school board meeting where Lillyanne read an original poem about her family's transition from Vietnam to the United States. She immediately captured the hearts and minds of our board, and left them pondering the importance of Cultural Responsiveness for our school system. It was amazing!

Her work in our journalism department has been wonderful. It seems like she always has a fresh approach to her assignments. She is thoughtful. She is insightful. She is direct and to the point in a way that leaves a person desiring more.

I recommend Lillyanne to you with no reservations.

Sincerely,



David D. Clark, Principal

Columbus North High School

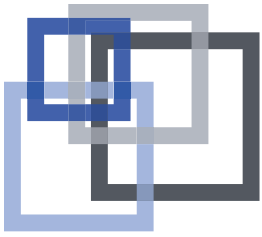


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## CNHS MEDIA

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To: Journalist of the Year  
From: Rachel McCarver and Ryan Gunterman  
Re: Lillyanne Pham

Lillyanne has been on our newsmagazine staff for three years, however, this was the first year we've had the pleasure of being her advisers. Though Rachel wasn't officially advising her for the past 3 years, she have served as her mentor. Ryan is new to the school and was taken aback by Lillyanne's dedication.

Since the first day of school her freshman year, Lillyanne was one of the most enthusiastic students in our media program. She was always willing to learn any new task she was introduced.

In addition to always being eager to learn, she was always eager to question. She loves to find out the purpose and reason for things. Her inquisitiveness always kept us on our toes!

Lillyanne took the journalism prerequisite and earned an A+. In this class, she tackled the skills of writing, designing, interviewing and photography. We'd like to focus on one thing that she did well above all the others, but she mastered it all.

After she completed her sophomore year, Lillyanne applied to be a member of the Triangle newsmagazine. For a first year staff member, she far exceeded expectations.

Her junior year, she was promoted to infographic editor on the nationally award-winning newsmagazine staff. Of course, her senior year she was back for another round of leadership. In her position of indepth editor, Lillyanne oversees approximately 4 staff members and does so with grace and phenomenal leadership skills. Though she only directly manages 4 students, the newsmagazine revolves around Lillyanne. Whether it's her newest big idea or the writing workshop she decided to initiate herself, everyone on staff (including us!) looks up to her.

The newsmagazine prints monthly and this year was merged with our online presence. Ryan and I were worried about how the staff would handle this curve ball. At first they were hesitant, but as soon as it "clicked" with Lillyanne--the staff seemed at ease and realized they could start this new adventure.

We have had indepth editors before, but Lillyanne *is* it. She works hard to dig deep into any story. Always finding every possible source and educating the student body about sometimes hard to hear things. She lives by the mantra she was taught: "Everybody has a story."

Throughout Lillyanne being a star at student media, she has also used her talents in other areas. She runs a female empowerment group every Friday morning, involved in Poetry Slam and the Environmental Club. In these clubs/programs she uses her leadership, design, and management skills. Her talent of balancing her extracurricular activities and education has been impressive.

Is there anything this girl *can't* do?

She is such a talented young woman who has even more potential to grow with any career path that she chooses.

As her journalism advisers, We highly recommend her as journalist of the year as she epitomizes what we teach in CNHS Media.

Sincerely,  
Rachel McCarver, MJE and Ryan Gunterman, MJE  
mccarver@bcsc.k12.in.us