



MATE
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CENTER

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Dear Admissions,

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Ms. Eva Gillet to your school. Eva has participated in the Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center’s international ROV (remotely operated vehicle) competition program for the last several years. During that time, she has demonstrated technical, problem-solving, critical thinking as well as teamwork and leadership skills. She would be an excellent addition to your school.

The MATE Center is a national partnership of community colleges, high schools, universities, research institutions, marine industries, professional societies, and working professionals. MATE’s mission is to use marine technology to create interest in and improve STEM education and to provide the marine technical workforce with well-educated STEM professionals. Established in 1997 with funding from the National Science Foundation, the MATE Center is headquartered at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California.

Working in partnership with the Marine Technology Society, the MATE Center developed the ROV (underwater robotics) competition to help accomplish our mission. The competition, which includes an international event and a network of regional contests that feed into it, engages thousands of students, like Eva, each year.

Eva has been the captain of her ROV team for the last three years. As captain, she is responsible for overseeing the design and building of the ROV and the completion of the competition’s engineering and communication components – a poster display and engineering presentation. She is also responsible for keeping the project on schedule and maintaining a friendly and collaborative work environment for her team members.

In addition to the competition, Eva recently represented the MATE Center at a community outreach event. Eva answered our call for volunteers and took the opportunity to present her team’s ROV at the 2013 San Mateo Maker Faire, which was held in May. She explained the rationale behind the design and construction of the vehicle, answered questions, and allowed members of the audience to drive her team’s ROV in MATE’s version of the ocean – a 3-foot deep “kiddie” pool. Using MATE’s beginner-level ROV outreach kits, Eva and other members of her team also helped Faire participants build their own ROVs, ballast them, and “fly” them in the MATE kiddie pool. (Please see www.youtube.com/watch?v=zE1wbXirsBU&feature=youtu.be for a video of her presentation and interaction with others at the Maker Faire.)

Again, Eva would be an excellent addition to your school. Her interest in and enthusiasm for learning is contagious! I am sure that she would inspire her fellow students to feel the same. And I sincerely hope that she continues her participation in the MATE ROV competition. Perhaps she can help to start a team at your school!

Please let me know if you need additional information or have any questions. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Jill M. Zande
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