

April 29, 2022

Marni Perschnick  
One College Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA  
96150

(530)541-4660, ext. 281  
meperschni@ltcc.edu



Dear H.E.R.O. Scholarship Committee,

It is my honor and privilege to write this letter of nomination for .... Elam. I have had the pleasure of working with Radha while she has been a student at Lake Tahoe Community College, pursuing both an Administration of Justice AST and Psychology AAT. She has put great effort into her classes and overcome incredible odds to be a college student.

.... dad was from India, and her mom was from Guyana. .... was born and raised in Davis, CA. When .... was 16, her dad unexpectedly passed away and she had to help her mom and twin brother by starting homeschooling and taking on two jobs. Radha graduated early from homeschool and credits her dad's educational example for her own drive. When .... was in her 20s, she was in a life changing car accident that resulted in her skull being fractured in 3 places. Due to the accident, physical and mental disabilities have been a continued struggle for Radha. Following the accident, .... had to drop out of college, couldn't work, and struggled with homelessness and adequately meeting her medical needs. .... has since been diagnosed with a rare medical issue at Mayo Clinic.

Radha experiences physical fatigue and pain on a daily basis. She has shared with me that her mind is active, and she wants to learn, but that her body often holds her back. When the pandemic hit, Radha was afraid she wouldn't be able to attend school because she is immunocompromised. She learned about LTCC's online classes and degrees and felt a renewed sense of purpose. School gives .... motivation and a routine to stick to. She told me that there have been many times she has wanted to give up, but she has continued to persevere and has received all A's at LTCC!

.... wants to make a difference in this world. She is passionate about helping people like her, who have physical and mental disabilities, and to give them hope. ... has shared with me about how vulnerable it has felt to be a disabled minority woman. She wants to prove to herself that she is strong and determined, and hopes to not only get a bachelor's degree, but also attend graduate school and obtain her PhD.

Radha will be finishing her remaining classes for her AA degrees in the Fall and will be applying to San Francisco State for their Criminal Justice Studies degree this Summer. She also has a dream of being accepted as a Rhodes Scholar. Radha wants to use her education to make new policies and laws that help people with physical and mental disabilities.

I have no doubt that Radha will go far. Her determination and understanding of immense struggle will contribute to her making a difference in the lives of those she helps with her education. It is my privilege to nominate this incredible and inspiring student.

Sincerely,



Marni Perschnick, LCSW

Academic Counselor, Veterans Affairs