



November 3, 2023

To the Scholarship Committee:

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Zion Walker for the Pre College Initiative (PCI) Female of the Year Award. In my roles as the President of Leaders Emerging and Developing (LEAD), Education Director of Blacks in Technology, and a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, I have had the privilege of closely collaborating with Ms. Walker since 2016. Walker is an exceptional young leader who has evolved into an outstanding leader and role model for her peers. Her intellect, strong work ethic, and unwavering determination make her an ideal candidate for this award.

Walker has exemplified the true spirit of the NSBE Mission. This is evident through her academic achievements, as she excels in her studies and is on track to earn her associate degree in science from Columbus State Community College, specializing in engineering, even before graduating from high school as the valedictorian. Her professional success is equally impressive, having worked at NASA on the Urban Island Heat Index project and the space science mission team. She has also positively impacted her community by serving on the United Nations Youth Panel focusing on Climate Change and Environmental Justice and by tutoring younger students in mathematics and science throughout the school year. Remarkably, Zion has achieved all of this while actively participating in her high school's track and swimming teams, as well as fulfilling her role as the E-STEM Katherine Johnson Chapter Secretary and Treasurer. Amid all these accomplishments, she has made it her personal mission to champion Physical and Mental Health Initiatives for the African American Community. Walker hopes to continue these things by obtaining a PhD in Biomedical Engineering and focusing on Medical Research inside and outside of labs.

In her local community of Pickerington, OH, and the broader Greater Columbus, OH Area, Zion founded the Black Teen Mental Health Club, where she collaborated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness to lead Mental Health Initiatives. Zion has also provided culturally competent mental health resources to African American teenagers in Central Ohio and has successfully raised funds for her programs and initiatives on an international scale. These are just a few of the remarkable contributions that Zion Walker has made.

I have every confidence that Walker will continue to be a beacon of leadership and community service. Over the past few years, I have witnessed tremendous personal and professional growth in Walker, and I am excited to witness her continued development as a trailblazer for the community and beyond. Therefore, without any hesitation, I am proud to nominate Zion Walker as the next PCI Female of the Year for The National Society of Black Engineers.

Sincerely,

Vincent E Johns Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Leaders Emerging and Developing  
vjohns@leademerging.org