



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY

Application ID: **29267**

To the Applicant Review Panel:

It is my pleasure to recommend Cynthia Dai without reservation for the Citizens Redistricting Commission. As background, I am the Chief Scientist at the recently established Fung Institute for Engineering Leadership, the Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (CET), and an engineering professor in the College of Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. Previously, I held numerous senior management and technical leadership positions in academics and industry, including positions with U.S. Robotics Corporation, 3Com Corporation, Cambia Networks, and Hewlett Packard. I hold over 50 U.S. patents in the area of networking and communications.

I have known Cynthia for the past four years and have worked with her closely during the development of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (CET). She contributed to the creation of its mission, the development of its highly capable mentoring networks of 100 executives and entrepreneurs, and has taught in the area of leadership skills for engineers and scientists. She has also worked with me in the expansion of the program in a collaborative initiative with Tsinghua, a leading university in China. She has traveled to Beijing multiple times to negotiate with Tsinghua on the Center's behalf; spent a summer researching and carefully adapting our curriculum with Chinese culture and teaching methods in mind. She then *moved* to China for three months to teach the core entrepreneurship courses and set up the program's infrastructure.

Given my professional working relationship with her, I can say that she is an intelligent and capable person. Moreover, she has a high degree of ethics and a sense for doing a job fully. She is clearly impartial and has demonstrated this during her tenure at CET. Cynthia teaches students from every region of California (as well as from the rest of the nation and the world) and her diplomacy in the classroom and thoughtfully planned assignments are excellent indicators of her impartiality and appreciation for diversity. Finally, since her first degree is a technical engineering degree and her second is an MBA from Stanford, she clearly has the analytical skills needed for the assignment with the Citizens Redistricting Commission. My personal observations and experience also agree with the assessment that she is naturally impartial, appreciates diversity, and has a high caliber of analytical skills.

I hope that you will consider her for this important assignment. I support her fully in this endeavor.

Best regards,

Ikhlak Sidhu  
Director, Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology  
Chief Scientist, Fung Institute for Engineering Leadership  
Professor of Industrial Engineering & Operations Research (Full, Adj.)

