



Institutional Diversity Initiatives
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Dear Parent(s) of a young woman in 7th or 8th grade:

Congratulations! You are receiving this letter because your daughter has been identified by your school as a nominee for the **Horizons I** program at Clarkson University. The Horizons series was created in 1988 and includes both a first and second year program. If your daughter is new to Horizons, she has an opportunity to apply for Horizons I (current 7th or 8th graders who have not previously participated) leaving her the possible opportunity to explore Horizons II next year. Please review the multi-fold brochure as it will answer some of your questions. I also suggest you give attention to the deadline dates as we reserve the right not to review materials that do not arrive on time.

Horizons is Clarkson's only academic youth program exclusively for young women. The Horizons curriculum uses an integrated instructional module for science, engineering and mathematics, and supports these through fun and challenging hands-on projects. The life skills component further enhances the instruction as participants build confidence, personal insight, and team spirit.

The invitation to nominate candidates for Horizons is shared with over 400 schools making the selection process fairly competitive. Your daughter is in good company as almost every girl nominated is very qualified, however, we only accommodate 140 Horizon I participants. The selected girls attend during one of two week-long sessions during Summer 2012: July 15 - 20 or July 22 - 27. I cannot emphasize how important it is for your daughter to recognize that her nomination is an honor in itself, but at this stage it is only a nomination.

You should find the following documents in this packet of materials: the School Nomination (Application) form and a Horizons I series of questions designed to help us know more about your daughter as a person. We very much appreciate your assistance to help your daughter recognize there are no right or wrong responses: she should simply follow the directions and answer the questions honestly and in her own words.

In addition there are two Recommendation forms - one which must be filled out by one of your daughter's math or science teachers while the other can be from anyone - other than a family member - who knows your daughter well enough to determine her suitability for the program. Lastly is the Code of Conduct Guidelines form so you and your daughter realize we have her best interest at heart.

Our office has been sponsoring pre-college programs since 1989 and we have a history of experience upon which to draw. In the final analysis, however, you are the best judge of whether your daughter is ready for this week-long residential program and if it is a good match for her interests.

Congratulations again! If you have any questions that have not been addressed, please contact Vicki Clark, the Horizons Project Coordinator, at the address above.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. de Coste, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President

Enclosures