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Superstars of STEM Selection Committee

Science & Technology Australia

Dear Sandra and the Superstars of STEM Selection Committee,

**Re: Superstars of STEM Scholarship Application**

I am writing to apply for a scholarship to support my placement, should I be selected to participate in the Superstars of STEM program. I am currently as a part-time lecturer in science communication while finalising my PhD thesis for submission. As I am only able to work part time while completing my studies, the financial support would greatly aid my ability to participate in the program.

I am a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. I was involved in the promotions and organisation of the Queers in Science talks at the Royal Society of Victoria that showcased scientists in the LGBTQIA+ community. I have also written articles around scientific discussions of gender and sexuality and recently wrote a song for Wear It Purple Day to celebrate my bisexuality and the sexuality spectrum.

I am also an active member of the Vietnamese Community of Australia (VCA). While I am only half Vietnamese, I am very proud of my culture, traditions, and language. I identify as Vietnamese and represent VCA at official ceremonies, such as their Lunar New Year Festival and ANZAC Day Commemoration. I believe that it is important to get more Asian representation into the spotlight, especially in media and music. I write songs about both science and my identity, performing them at VCA events and online.

I am passionate about science communication and engaging others STEM. I particularly enjoy working with children and encouraging them to pursue STEM and/or be more inquisitive and critical thinkers. As a queer, Vietnamese, singing scientist, I hope to smash the stereotypes of scientists. I hope that you consider me as a worthy candidate of the Superstars of STEM program.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona Nguyen-Robertson.