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Tsadra Foundation's Advanced Contemplative Scholarship Committee

Dear Committee Members,

It is with sincere respect and confidence that I write this letter in support of Edward Alexander, Ph.D., for the Tsadra Foundation's Advanced Contemplative Scholarship. Edward is a dedicated Buddhist practitioner and a thoughtful, disciplined student of the Dharma.

I have come to know Edward through my ongoing teachings at the Ratna Shri Center in Chicago, where he regularly attends whenever I visit. In addition, he participates consistently in my online teachings and occasionally reaches out for guidance on his meditation and Dharma practice. In our interactions, I have found him to be deeply sincere, humble, and committed to spiritual development.

Recently, Edward asked my advice regarding participation in the three-year retreat at Gomde Pyrenees. After careful consideration, I strongly encouraged him to pursue this path. The retreat is guided by Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche and Lama Tenzin Zangpo—both highly accomplished teachers whom I know personally and deeply respect. I believe Edward is well-prepared to benefit from and contribute meaningfully to such a rigorous retreat environment.

Though our relationship is relatively recent, I have been impressed by Edward's consistent devotion and capacity for deep practice. His academic background, combined with his contemplative aspirations, gives him a unique foundation for engaging in long-term retreat with both intellectual clarity and heartfelt motivation.

I fully support his application and hope you will consider him favorably for this valuable opportunity.

Sincerely,
Khenpo Yeshi