



Impact Statement

Fanhui Shang, Grade 7

Dr. Christine Grant: *The Equalizer*, 2026

Colored pencil, mixed media on paper, 14 x 11 inches

Luckie Art Studio, Boston, MA

Unsung Hero: Christine Grant

I chose to portray Dr. Christine Grant because she was a strong advocate for gender equality. I admire her leadership ability as a coach, educator, and university administrator. Her contribution to women's athletics improved the lives of many college athletes. She believed that women deserved the same funding, scholarships, facilities, coaching, and recognition as men. I admire Dr. Christine Grant because she tried to make college athletics fairer for women. Her story also feels personal to me. In Chinese society, girls are not always given the same opportunities as boys, and boys may receive more of their parents' time, attention, and money. Some of this bias can still be seen in American Chinese families, for example, I have a twin brother, so I am often compared to him.

When Dr. Christine Grant first began coaching field hockey at the University of Iowa, she was given a budget of only \$3,000. Within one year, the University increased it to \$70,000. By the time she retired in 2000, she had helped grow the women's athletics budget to \$6.9 million. Dr. Grant also hired many outstanding coaches for women's sports at Iowa, including C. Vivian Stringer and Lisa Bluder, who later became known for the success of their basketball programs.

I chose to draw Dr. Grant as a speaker at a microphone because she testified in lawsuits and gave lectures about the importance of gender equality in sports. I also depicted Grant at different ages to show her growth over time. She began as a player and coach, and later became a University leader and a national advocate for women in sports. The other woman in my drawing is C. Vivian Stringer who was hired by Grant to coach basketball at the University of Iowa. Stringer was the first Black women's basketball coach in the Big Ten athletic conference and has been inducted in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. I drew the women with colored pencils because it is my favorite medium. I enjoy using them to create detail and shading.

Learning about Dr. Christine Grant has changed the way I perceive the news. Her story reminds me that women can still be treated unfairly compared with men, even in the 21st century. Recently, my friend group discussed President Trump's firing of two women, Kristi Noem and Pam Bondi. Though other members of his cabinet have made mistakes, only these women have lost their jobs. Accordingly, Dr. Christine Grant inspires me to notice inequality and to value fairness and equal opportunity. I have shown my depiction of Dr. Grant to my sister, who is a college student in New York City. She praised my work and told me that she was proud of me for choosing to honor a woman who worked to expand opportunities for women in college athletics. Taken together, I am considering submitting this artwork to my school's end-of-year art exhibition.