

Rolla, MO, March 6th, 2015

Recommendation of Mr. Mahdi Valipour for the DJ Belarbi Graduate Scholarship

Dear Mr. Shaw, Dear ACI Missouri Chapter Officers,

I strongly recommend you to award one of the graduate scholarships to Mr. Mahdi Valipour, as he is a talent who will have a significant impact on the future development of construction materials, through his perseverance, intellectual quality, impeccable work ethics, profound interest and critical thinking abilities.

I know Mr. Valipour as one of the outstanding doctoral students of Dr. Kamal Khayat. During the last two years, we had several high-quality discussions on the execution, analysis and interpretation of the rheological properties of ultra-high-performance fiber-reinforced concrete (UHPFRC). Mr. Valipour has sought several times advice from me, other faculty members and fellow graduate students to advance in his comprehension of the subject, questioning specific aspects and analyzing critically the different options available. From a scientific point of view, studying the rheology UHPFRC is a large challenge and Mahdi is perseverant in finding solutions to characterize the material and to apply the obtained knowledge into practical applications, which are thin UHPFRC overlays on existing roads in his case.

Furthermore, I have positively experienced the work ethics of Mahdi, both as a leader on his own project, as well as a team member on other projects. Teamwork is needed for the larger experimental programs in our research domain, and I regularly see Mahdi helping out other people. Combined with his amazing personality, sense of humor, Mahdi is largely appreciated by his fellow graduate students.

I am convinced that awarding one of the DJ Belardi graduate scholarships to Mr. Valipour will be a good investment in promoting the application of concrete in our infrastructure, and the character of Mr. Valipour make him a good ambassador for our research domain and our industry.



Dr. Dimitri Feys
Assistant Professor