

February 26, 2015

Dear ACI Scholarship Committee,

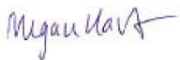
As an assistant professor at University of Missouri – Kansas City, I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Ryan Holmes over the course of the last 2 years. Ryan is a graduate student enrolled in Civil Engineering who is performing a master's research thesis on pervious concrete under my co-direction. Over these last few semesters I have the time to evaluate his academic ability and assess his character, engineering involvement and potential for leadership within the field of engineering and more specifically concrete materials.

Ryan is an excellent, conscientious, and highly motivated student who excels in his studies and research. Ryan's capacity to comprehend challenging topics, his analytical skills, and his forward thinking are reflected in his transcript and on his assessments. Ryan was an undergraduate student in my GIS for Engineers class. His performance in that class on the final project made me believe he had the capacity to perform as a graduate student in research. Ryan has not disappointed my initial assessment and has routinely performed each research objective expeditiously and with integrity. Ryan helps the mission of our research lab by directing four (4) undergraduate students in individual research assignments that pertain to our lab mission. The undergraduate students are diligently working towards a common goal, which speaks to his leadership ability.

Ryan has always conducted himself in a manner consistent with a professional engineer and his character is sound. He is quiet and somewhat reserved when engaged, but outspoken and truth seeking when intrigued by an idea. He clearly has the potential to lead both by action and words and has demonstrated that while assisting our students in class and outside of class in the lab. Ryan routinely worked well in groups that have formed in my course; a quality that will come handy when he starts internships and upper level coursework. He is a personable, talented individual, and is confident at developing ideas and performing tasks while maintaining enthusiasm about his profession. Ryan is among the brightest students I have had come through my classroom and it was a pleasure working with him as a teaching assistant. He capably transcended the typical engineering persona to explain difficult concepts to students from declared majors such as business, health sciences, pre-medical, social sciences, etc. He relates well to everyone and has the capacity to help unite disparate groups.

He is passionate about his education and he takes advantage of opportunities to learn from our faculty and students alike. Ryan is motivated, a self-starting individual, and performs everything with integrity. His grade point average reflects his aptitude and he has routinely maintained a top 10 percent grade on assessments given by me in class. I cannot recommend him enough for this opportunity. I believe he will become a future leader in novel concrete materials and waste byproduct reuse. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email at hartme@umkc.edu.

Sincerely,



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