



Whittier
College

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DAAD RISE Program

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Greetings,

My name is Jordan Hanson, and I am an assistant professor of physics at Whittier College, in Whittier, California. I write in support of Cassidy Smith for the RISE program at your institution. Cassidy Smith has been my physics student in my introduction to mechanics course, and is currently a physics major in our program. Cassidy and I are working together on several projects.

My research focuses on the ARIANNA project (<https://arianna.ps.uci.edu>), and Cassidy became interested early this semester. She and I have traveled to UC Irvine, where I helped to start the ARIANNA project as a graduate student. She has begun to help me reprogram some of the key simulation software associated with the experiment. She has been a fast learner in that regard, gaining experience with python3 and C++. I know that she is also taking computer programming this semester and is getting high marks.

Secondly, Cassidy has been helping me launch a digital textbook intended to prepare high school students for college STEM classes. The project is in the early stages, however, she has provided example code that I may use to include in the final project. We intend to use machine learning to tailor the digital text to the individual student, and Cassidy has created python modules to assist me with this.

In summary, I recommend her for your program. She is a young but fast learner, and is both organized and efficient.

Sincerely,

Jordan C. Hanson, PhD