



March 16, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter in support of Dr. Shymaa Arafat. I've known Shymaa for more than 20 years since I served as an external examiner of her Ph.D. Dissertation entitled, "Operating on Optimal Binary Code Trees" in 2001. As I was writing her Ph.D. defense report, I was very impressed by the quality of Shymaa's research, work ethic, and high standard of excellence.

Later in 2005, I participated in a grant proposal that Shymaa was awarded from the Center for Special Studies and Programs (Cssp) in Bibliotheca Alexandrina. I also hosted Shymaa at Southern Methodist University (SMU) to collaborate with my research team where I was serving as Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at that time.

Our paths crossed again several times after she became a university professor, where I saw Shymaa and her students presenting their research results in conferences and professional meetings. She continues to impress me as a passionate academician who is dedicated to educating students and conducting useful research.

In summary, Dr. Shymaa Arafat is a hard-working individual with many skills, and she enjoys a nice personality. She clearly demonstrates excellence in her ability to teach and conduct research. I recommend her without any reservation.

Sincerely,

Hesham El-Rewini, Ph.D., P.E.  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
Marymount University  
hrewini@marymount.edu