

**Department of Physics**  
*University of Washington*

November 27, 2019

Dear Graduate Admissions Committee,

It is my sincere pleasure to offer my unreserved recommendation for Samuel Naugle to your academic program. Samuel Naugle has been working closely with me at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory from May 2019 on a local R&D project to investigate the micro-physical optical properties of wavelength shifter thin film materials. During this time, I was able to personally witness his work routine on a daily basis and assess his future potential as a scientist.

He is an exceptional student in his ability to quickly absorb new ideas and skills to perform original research in a scientific laboratory setting. He was first given the task to learn the Monte Carlo simulation code for the project in order to study the systematic effects of the optical alignment of the hardware setup. He mastered this quickly and was producing original work in a very short period of time. During the past months, I have also had the opportunity to spend many hours with him discussing new strategies to mitigate hardware issues that arose from time to time, and I appreciate his valuable input in leading the project to success. He has a natural ability to develop creative new ideas toward solving complex hardware problems and I can testify that in more than one occasion his insight played a key role in the project. I would also like to highlight his very high ability to work responsibly as a team player, and maintain a professional and friendly relationship with both his mentors as well as his peers. He has a bright and friendly personality and is liked by all in our research group. I believe that his character will take him far where ever people skills and team work are important. I make these statements not as upper management, but as a colleague and mentor who has worked with him day in and day out during the past 6 months.

I see Samuel having exceptional potential for future development as a professional scientist and toward contributing original work to the field. I firmly believe Samuel would be an asset to any organization, but he has chosen your particular program as the place to develop himself further as scientist. I am absolutely confident that his admission to your program would be a decision you will not regret.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have or to discuss my recommendation in further detail. Please feel free to call me at 808-206-4357.

Thank you for your time,

**Michinari Sakai**  
Post-doctoral researcher  
University of California, Berkeley

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