I am writing this letter on behalf of Dr. John Smith, in support of his application to your postdoctoral fellowship at Lab U. I have had the privilege of interacting, collaborating, supporting, and mentoring Dr. Smith while he was a graduate student at University College School, and seen him blossom into a promising young scientist. I have truly found it fulfilling to have such a passionate, reliable, and intelligent student like Dr. Smith as part of my research group over the past 5.5 years.

Dr. Smith came to University College School relatively naïve and knew little about conducting independent research. But, I have seen Dr. Smith grow over the last 5.5 years in a way that few have here have taken the time to notice. Dr. Smith quality of work has and continues to be very good, and his ability to work cooperatively and supportively with other students and professors has been top-notch. Given some of the personal conversations Dr. Smith and I have had in the past, it was surprising that others did not find him to be intimidating, but rather cooperative and forthright.

Dr. Smith just recently defended his dissertation entitled “Tropospheric Weather and Space Weather … Not so Different After All?”, and after much effort, gave a surprisingly decent presentation. To get this point Dr. Smith had to overcome a number of obstacles including funding issues, family problems, etc., which demonstrates how motivated an individual he truly is. I know what it is like being a first-generation college and graduate student so for Dr. Smith to really excel here at University College School is a true testament to his resolve.

Dr. Smith academic and research record is one of a talented researcher, especially given where he started. During his tenure here at University College School, he published 3 first-authored peer review journal papers, and 2 as second or third author. He also presented his work 10 times at National or International meetings (oral presentation or posters), for which he has won one award for an outstanding oral presentation by a graduate student. He his competent in a number of computer languages and tends to pick up new ones quickly compared to his peers. He has actively mentored undergraduate students through a number of different programs here on campus, however, these tended to distract him at times. Nonetheless, he was an important contributor to my research group and was always dependable when it came to proposal, research, and/or coursework deadlines.

To summarize Dr. Smith is a capable scientific researcher with the programming talent that would needed to succeed in this Postdoctoral fellowship. Further Dr. Smith comes from a low-income upbringing, is a first-generation college student, as well as a person of color in STEM. All of these things coupled with his research acumen make him a rare individual, and an asset to any research group. He is unassuming, diligent, and hardworking. He will benefit from and make the best use of the opportunity afforded by this Postdoctoral fellowship, if offered the opportunity.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Professor Jones

University College School