Dear Dr. Hedman,

I am writing to you as I create my ePortfolio, a culmination of my honors and academic career here at High Point University. Navigating the complex academic world to see where I fit into all of this has been a tedious joy. This collection of meaningful coding projects and honors assignments serves as a testament to my commitment to the learning objectives of the honors program: Traditions, Ethics, Awareness, Communication, Collaboration, and Integrative Learning.

Traditional research was at the focal point of my time here at HPU as a computer science major. I have been taught countless coding best practices and methodologies. The coding projects within the portfolio not only demonstrate my proficiency in various programming languages but also highlight my ability to build upon the rich traditions of software development. For instance, the inclusion of a comprehensive web application project illustrates my grasp of industry-standard coding conventions and set of best-practices. My ability to apply traditional techniques is found in my advanced algorithms’ final project, wherein we utilize cutting edge hash theory to create a lookup engine. Honors exposes its students to a wide range of traditional disciplines, even if for a short time in some cases. The teachers absolutely make the most of it, and the ability to understand a wide breadth of topics and use them to hone your own expertise is critical in today’s society.

Ethics in the ever-expanding world of Computer Science has also been a cornerstone of the honors program and academia at large. I have researched “fairness” in algorithm decision making, along with adding transparency to complex and obfuscated techniques in Networking applications and firmware. I have engaged in some “Grey hat” hacking, where the hacking done is technically illegal, but it is for the purposes of warning others about the cyber-attacks possible. We even got into High Point’s accounting department. The ethical concerns of such power cannot be understated and as such I have taken great care in my time to ensure I develop with the utmost integrity.

Awareness is a critical skill most, including myself, lack coming into college. My first class, luckily, was one concerned with “Working Class Protest Culture”, and while the class itself was not the greatest (Thank you Dr. Turner), it taught one very important thing, perspective. One must be aware of not only their own perspective and actions, but how the rest of the world perceives them. My honors project in “Autobiographics” about my hometown delved deep into the repercussions of seemingly isolated incidents in a small town, where no incident is isolated.

The ability to collaborate necessitates the ability to communicate. Most code is written in small dev teams, so the ability to understand someone else’s code (and their style) are critical to success. In my Web App, three of us collaborated to make a campus wide chat system. Thus enabling communication with anyone anywhere on campus. With an understanding of the broader world around you must come the ability to discuss that with someone from any part of this diverse world.

The ability to integrate all of these topics into one cohesive message is another step in the right direction in the honors department. The cross-collaboration of departments on individual classes and assignments is unmatched in the engineering department or anywhere else on campus. I thoroughly enjoyed the multi-faceted approach to classes, similarly to putting together a puzzle piece where the big picture becomes much clearer when you put all the pieces together. The integration of theoretical frameworks into practical coding applications highlights my ability to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world implementation.