



**COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

*Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering • ECJ 4.2  
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**RECOMMENDATION LETTER FOR MR. BARRETT RUTH**

**Applicant to the Bachelor's Program of the  
Department of Computer Science at UT Austin**

Written by Professor Spyros A. Kinnas  
The University of Texas at Austin

March 13, 2022

I am happy to write this recommendation letter on behalf of **Mr. Barrett Ruth**, applicant to the Department of Computer Science at UT Austin. I have known Barrett practically for all his life, since our families live close to each other, and my 2 kids (boys) are about the same age as him.

Through the years, I have seen him growing into a well-rounded young man. Looking at his academic record, I have been impressed by how many Advanced (AP) Classes he has taken (8 already and 3 currently) and done exceptionally well in all of them. Among those AP classes, he has taken Computer Science, Physics (I & II), Calculus BC, Environmental Science (currently), and Macroeconomics (currently) on the STEM side, but also English Language and Composition, World History, Spanish Language and Culture, Human Geography, and English Literature (currently). It is worth noting that despite the rigor of all these diverse AP courses Barrett managed to get a remarkably high GPA of 4.57/5.0, while he was also working about 15 hours weekly as a full stack developer at GoTransverse, a global billing company! Given that he is attending LASA, a highly competitive high school ranked #1 in Austin, #4 in Texas and #41 in the country, I strongly believe that Barrett, if accepted by UT Austin, not only will excel in the field of Computer Science, but that he will also be able to make the connection to and communicate with those outside his field, and that he will be aware of the socioeconomic implications of his knowledge and of his work to the rest of the society.

In addition to being an exemplary student, Barrett is also a very sociable, very courteous and very humble person in his interactions with his peers, as well as with those older than him. He is very focused and highly motivated to succeed. He has been a very good role model for other kids of his age (including mine).

Being a professor at UT Austin for over 25 years, I can attest to the academic background of our undergraduate students, and I can say with confidence that Barrett has what it takes to excel in the challenging field of Computer Science, within the highly demanding framework of the University of Texas at Austin.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Spyros A. Kinnas, PhD

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