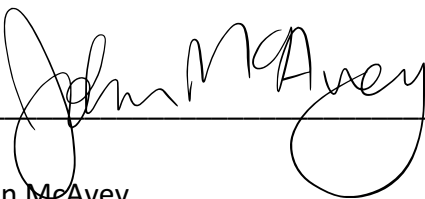In Support of tenure for Dr. Don Porter

I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Porter in the summer of 2015 and work as a REU student, and I would highly recommend him for tenure because of his efficacy as an advisor. I come from a small school, Hendrix College, and had never had the opportunity to explore research in computer science before. When I expressed interest in exploring academia, a current professor of mine put me in contact with Dr. Porter. Working with him, I was able to explore and learn about Operating Systems and computer science research with resources, such as lectures, previously unavailable to me. The experience has been invaluable to my growth.

During the summer of 2015, Dr. Porter acted as my teacher and advisor. Hendrix does not have a strong Operating Systems program, and as such I needed help to catch up to some of my peers working on the project. Dr. Porter allowed me access to some of his recorded lectures to help me close the knowledge gap. Working with these lectures, and some time discussing the topics with Dr. Porter, helped to quickly enable me to work on our project. One of his lecture strengths is to allow the projects to be learning experiences. I specifically remember enjoying the first assignment for the course. This assignment helped me to engage in the material. This helped me to understand the course objectives, resulting in a deeper understanding of the material going into the rest of the course.

In addition to allowing me lecture materials, Dr. Porter was my project advisor. When I arrived at Stony Brook University, he presented me with several projects to choose from. Once I had chosen a project, Dr. Porter worked as a guide, helping me to understand the problem. He helped me work though material that I was unfamiliar with and helped me to better understand how to think about an academic project. Dr. Porter was extremely influential in my growth, and is an excellent choice for tenure!

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