

January 31, 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to recommend Precious Abayesu for the position at the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory. I was Precious' professor for a regression course in the spring 2017. Precious' statistical training, communication skills, and her motivation outside of the classroom qualify her for this position.

One area where Precious excels is communication. A major component of the regression course is to complete a group project consisting of collecting and analyzing data. She worked on a project studying the effect of age, gender, social class, and family relationships on the survival of the Titanic. Precious took the initiative to setup many meetings with me to discuss the analysis of the data. Her group decided to tackle a dataset that required logistic regression, a topic that we did not study in detail in the course. Precious was able to meet with me and then communicate back to the group our findings. During the regression project she was able to explain statistical concepts in non-statistical terms, which reveals her mastery of the material. Precious' leadership and communication skills will be valuable as she interacts with colleagues.

Precious is a hard worker. She has struggled in some of her statistics courses throughout her career, but she is a curious young lady who continues to ask questions until she grasps the concepts she is studying. I see such growth in Precious after every conversation I have with her. She recently completed an internship at Simple Energy in Boulder, Colorado. Here she was able to apply the statistical tools from school to real problems. She mentioned that it was both daunting and exciting. Precious understands that her journey as a data analyst is just beginning. Working with the SDAL will help Precious hone her statistical skills and allow her to continue to see applications of the methodology she is learning in the classroom.

Finally, Precious is a very involved undergraduate student. She is part of the College of Science Dean's Leadership Council, a member of the Statistics and Actuary Clubs and works with the American Red Cross at Virginia Tech. There is no question that Precious Abayesu is an outgoing person ready for a new challenge. Thank you for considering her for this position.

Sincerely,



Anne R. Driscoll, Ph.D.
Assistant Collegiate Professor, Department of Statistics Virginia Tech