Initial Report

Last Modified: 01/29/2018

1. Recommender's Name:

Text Response
Yasuo Mlyazaki

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

2. Recommender's Email Address:

Text Response
yasuom@vt.edu

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

3. Applicant's name for which you are providing a recommendation:

Text Response
Kevin Krost

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

4. How long have you known the applicant and under what circumstances have you become familiar with the applicant's academic abilities?

Text Response
I have known Kevin for about two and half years. I have got familiar with his academic abilities through courses, grant project, and study group.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

5. Please assess the applicant's ability to contribute to the Data Science for the Public Good Fellowship Program.

Text Response
In the Fall of 2016, he took my Hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) course and in this course he used a multilevel model as a one-parameter IRT model and completed a project on differential item functioning (DIF) using OECD PISA math items. Especially, he compared the two results of DIF detection conducted by the HLM software that used a t test and an IRT software that used Mantel-Haenszel procedure and explored many grouping variables by which items exhibit DIF including continuous variables that represent individual characteristics such as motivation and self-efficacy in addition to the traditional gender and race grouping variables. Since I didn't cover the details of how IRT models can be implemented by multilevel framework and the HLM software, he needed some amount of self-study on the topic. He successfully completed the project mostly on his own and made an interesting case. The amount of works and quality was beyond my expectation for the course. Kevin mentioned that one of the reasons that he did an in-depth DIF analysis using PISA data was that he was quite interested in test fairness and he wants to do his dissertation on this topic. He submitted a proposal based on this research to the NCME conference and it was accepted for presentation in coming April.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1

6. How would you describe the applicant's motivation and initiative in pursuing his/her academic and career goals?

Text Response
He is self motivated and takes initiatives on his research projects. He continues the above mentioned course project and is expanding it to the application that not many educational measurement persons thought about by incorporating the structural equation modeling perspectives into item bias evaluation. He is preparing himself for becoming faculty members in a research university as his career goals by offering consultations to fellow graduate students. He is quite popular consultant.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	1