



January 20, 2017

Dear Selection Committee,

I am proud to recommend, Mr. Denny Huynh, for the Data Science for the Public Good program (DSPG) Program. I have known Denny since he began serving as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant and Resident Assistant for Residents in Science and Engineering (RiSE); a nationally renowned first year student transition program at Clemson University. In my role, I have served as Denny's mentor and program advisor. In this role, I have had the privilege to interact with Denny on a weekly basis and observe him in environments outside of the traditional classroom.

Denny is a highly intelligent, perceptive young man who is at the top of his class and is a natural and respected peer leader. He ranks in the top 1% of students whom I have come in contact with in my career and has tremendous potential to excel in a variety of areas in the field of business and analytics. Denny is a recognized top performer and leader as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, students and faculty in the department look to his leadership to solve problems and develop others. Denny is also a dedicated member of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering honor society for the best and the brightest 10% of engineering students at Clemson University.

Denny's potential as a candidate for this program is extraordinary. His drive to complete projects and develop others to be their best self goes beyond the average student. When Denny was Resident Assistant he often would assist others in becoming their best self. When Denny was a Resident Assistant I observed him truly care for first year residents. He cared personally and practically for students he mentored—I have observed him lead extraordinary LinkedIn workshops for students with ease and great poise. Denny truly cared for residents in the communities he worked in, and was constantly engaging students to be their best self. This year, Denny is a Resident Assistant in a different community and has continued to dedicate himself to others. He has helped international residents adapt to American culture – and even led a trip to New York City with many of these students by himself!

Denny's interest to grow and learn are unmatched. Not only has he finished his engineering degree strong, he has also sought other opportunities to explore business opportunities and influences in preparation for graduate school. Denny is always interested in making the environment he is part of a better place for others. For example, this year Denny is spearheading a project for our department related to marketing and brand improvement. Denny has partnered with myself and another faculty member to lead this project – no one requested he complete this project he simply

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was interested in learning more about this topic and wanted to positively impact the campus environment. This speaks to Denny's can-do mentality and his ability to be a self-starter in any environment.

It is important to know that Denny's undergraduate success was not easy to achieve. He had to overcome many obstacles as a first-generation minority student at a university with one of the lowest diversity indexes in the country. Denny has had to balance family responsibilities on top of his career goals due to his parents' lack of English proficiency, which required him to travel home often. He is the trailblazer for his family's life in America, and his ambition for success stems from the desire to move his family's socioeconomic status forward. It is amazing what he has achieved despite these obstacles, his fortitude and determination are part of what make him a top-notch student and citizen.

Denny takes great pride in his work and has often mentioned the desire to serve a cause greater than himself and his desire to develop others. Participating in the Data Science for the Public Good program (DSPG) Program would allow him to take the next step to fulfilling his career goals in a progressive environment. Denny is reliable, honest and trustworthy, and possess the soft skills, technical savvy, critical thinking abilities, and drive needed to succeed in this specialized summer fellowship. It is with great pleasure I recommend Denny, he would be an asset to this program and your institute if chosen to be a recipient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aubrey C. Baldwin".

Aubrey C. Baldwin
Director, Residents in Science & Engineering