

1. Recommender's Name:

Text Response

David Bieri

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1

2. Recommender's Email Address:

Text Response

bieri@vt.edu

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1

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

Text Response

Davon Woodard

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

Davon joined my research group as a PhD student in the fall of last year. I was able to recruit him in to the PhD program in the School of Public & International Affairs. Davon is a mature student with an accomplished academic background (Masters in economics and MBA from DePaul University) and significant work experience in the public sector (City of Chicago Data Analytics Team). His application to VT was primarily motivated by the fact that VT was one of only a handful of places that offers a graduate program in urban computational analytics (the NSF-sponsored "UrbComp" program). As a PI in UrbComp, I am thus delighted to be able to provide Davon with UrbComp funding. Since joining my research group only a little more than a semester ago, he has hit the ground running and has been exemplary in getting involved with research (working on a quantitative project on urban fiscal resilience for US cities) and the roll-out and adoption a key research processes that involve a number of software platforms for the group (GitHub, R, Stata)

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

It is very difficult to think of anyone who has more personal commitment and professional interest in the program than Davon. The overall aims of the fellowship program seem ideally aligned with his academic and professional development interests. With an unusually deep background in economics and his impressive public sector professional experience, Davon's wide-ranging knowledge in a number of key knowledge fields that are directly related to the DSPG program would bring a unique set of perspectives and insights to his peers. Furthermore, Davon is both "people- and tech-savvy", possessing a communicative gift to engage productively with different audiences. In this sense, I cannot think of a more deserving and qualified candidate to be awarded one of these unique fellowships.

Statistic

Value

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1

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

Text Response

As indicated above, Davon is extremely focused and highly motivated in the pursuit of his academic and career goal. In addition to very clearly formulated professional development goals that he put together in his graduate school application, the manner in which he has already mastered to navigate the institutional complexities of the UrbComp certificate can only be described as exemplary. I am not exaggerating in suggesting that Davon is perhaps the applicant whose motivation and drive will infuse the DSPG fellowship program with a vibrancy and energy that has yet to find its equals. In any case, I am expressing my most enthusiastic support for Davon's application to the DSPG fellowship program.

Statistic

Value

Total Responses

1