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To Whom it May Concern:

I'm a full professor of Computer Science and Data Science at the University of Mary Washington, and am writing today in support of UMW undergraduates Bethanie Hackett, Garrett McKenzie, and Laura Rider, who will be applying to present at this year's NURVa conference. The three of them are all enrolled in our CPSC 491 or DATA 491 (Individual Study) course this semester, and I am their faculty mentor. They are combining their efforts and skill sets to conduct a very promising team research project, involving using Large Language Models (LLMs) and Agent-Based Models (ABMs) to both simulate online political speech and also to find ways to make it less threatening and polarizing.

All three students are excellent and have been fully dedicated to all phases of the research process. I hope they get a chance to present an early version of their work at NURVa in November!

Sincerely yours,



Stephen Davies  
Professor, Computer Science