

# Mark Rapo

6155 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA, 92009

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October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Erika Ergart as a candidate for employment. Erika worked on the Burroughs project as a contributor developer project from August 2020 to May 2021. She worked with on a team responsible for building a Kafka consumer that would transfer data from the Kafka stream into PostgreSQL table to make real-time aggregations accessible to the common tools of data scientists. This project was quite demanding, in that it was advancing the state-of-the-art of novel technologies not yet a part of traditional curriculums. Erika decided to take on this challenge to better understand the wholistic nature of the data science field and to broaden her skill set.

Erika has excellent organizational skills as she was among the first three contributors to submit the first part of the Burroughs project. Even though Erika had a tremendous workload during her graduate school experience, she was quick to volunteer to assist her peers with individual portion of the project. During the second part of the project, Erika would be heavily involved in the project discussions, questioning both her peers and mentors of the validity of the approach. Her questions would ensure the project code was efficient and accurate. Along with her precision, Erika served as a mentor to her teammates, ensuring a positive and smooth workflow. Her strong work ethic, reliable engagement, and consistent support made her a role model for some of the younger members of her team.

Erika would be a tremendous asset to your company and has my highest recommendation. If you have any further questions regarding her background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark Rapo  
Mentor to Purdue Data Mine Students  
Data Science Mgt, Viasat Inc.