Letter of Recommendation

Dear Admission Committee,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for **Mr. Ephrem A. Yekun.** I first knew Mr. Ephrem as my student when he was pursuing a master's in computer engineering. I taught him courses such as advanced operating systems, advanced computer networks, advanced database technology, distributed systems, and wireless sensor and ad-hoc networks. As a student, Mr. Ephrem has demonstrated a deep desire for learning and great skills in programming and different simulation tools. He showed his capability for self learning and demonstrated clear plans on how to approach, design, and solve problems in all courses.

He also did worthwhile projects as a graduate student. One instance is when he decided to build a web-based class and exam schedule generator for Mekelle University for his semester project using Ruby on Rails. Although I advised him against it as his undergraduate background was electronics and communication engineering and the project was algorithmically intensive, he submitted the proposal and was expected to finish it in three months. He learned Ruby on Rails and other advanced algorithms in the allotted time and finished the project. I was present during the presentation of his semester project, and everything was going superbly until he was told to show the demo for the application. He was told to delete all instructors, courses, and classrooms from the database and insert data from scratch. After following the instructions, when he clicked the schedule generator button, a NullException error was returned, which occurred because all data was initially null. This was unexpected, and he couldn't concentrate during the presentation. He received a C for not being able to successfully complete the demo. I still believe he deserved a better grade, but more importantly, I was able to learn that his main desire was to learn and explore new ideas and technologies, even if that would hurt his grade. In my opinion, this is the type of student that higher education institutions should produce: students who are curious and risk-takers. I was also his internal examiner during his master's thesis defense. He worked on wind power prediction using LSSVM, which is optimized using a new variant of quantum-behaved particle swarm optimization. He collected data from a nearby wind farm. Needless to say, his thesis was very interesting and well-presented.

Two years after graduation, I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Ephrem when he was appointed chair of computer engineering. He told me that he decided to become the chair's head because he wanted to familiarize himself with the administrative side of academia. At that time, Mr. Ephrem demonstrated great leadership, communication, and teamwork skills. He was the first person to introduce an academic meeting every two weeks where faculty members from Computer and Communication Engineering present and discuss recently published papers in reputable journals.

Therefore, given Mr. Ephrem's motivation, intelligence, perseverance, analytical ability, and strong teamwork and communication skills, I am confident that Mr. Ephrem Admasu is the best candidate for your program. If you have any questions, please contact me using the address given below.

Sincerely your,

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