

July 26, 2016

Subject: Unsolicited letter of recommendation for Mr. Ethan Hunter from Dale Olson, Professor of Physics, University of Northern Iowa.

*How I know Mr. Hunter:*

Ethan Hunter was a student in my one-credit spring 2015 mini-sumo robotics course (PHYSICS 1800 Projects in Basic Robotics and Sensors) at the University of Northern Iowa. Mr. Hunter then became the TA for the spring 2016 Projects course.

*Motivation for this unsolicited recommendation*


I have taught a one-credit laboratory course on autonomous vehicle robotics for eleven years. The course ends in what we believe to be the world's only ship-in mini-sumo robotics competition. Mr. Hunter has provided service as a TA and as a technical support person both for the course and for the ship-in competition and contributed at a significantly higher level than any previous TA. I wanted to make this information available to anyone considering employing Mr. Hunter, or admitting him to a graduate-level academic program. The evidence supporting Mr. Hunter's strong contribution to our educational robotics program is detailed below.

*Mr. Hunter's contributions during the spring 2016 semester*

1. Took pleasure in organizing the diverse range of electronic and mechanical components required for this course.
2. Demonstrated skill in improving the computer code that controls student robots.
3. Displayed dedication to helping students, especially in construction of the electronic support boards required to interface components, batteries, sensors, and motors, to the Arduino-style microcontrollers provided to students.
4. Imposed a high-level of organization on the transfer of equipment and robots from our teaching laboratory to the Maucker Student Union for the presentation of the 'world's only' live-on-the-internet ship-in robotics competition, during the next to the last week of the semester.
5. Provided assistance in managing student robots and visiting robots during this competition, and in the cleanup following the competition.
6. At several points in the course, systematically assessed, on his own initiative, and in writing, ideas about 'how things are going' and provided constructive suggestions on how the entire process could be further improved.

Hopefully the above information will be of value to anyone considering Mr. Hunter for a position as an employee, or for admission to an academic program.

Dale W. Olson



Professor of Physics