

From: David Kramer
To: Nolan Beudeker, Head of Programmes, d-lab
Date: 1 November 2024
Re: Testimonial for Austin Malinga

I have been Austin Malinga's mentor for the duration of his involvement in the d-lab programme which has been running at the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre.

It has been a privilege and a joy to mentor Austin, whose intellectual curiosity and personal development over the past few months have been impressive. While Austin clearly has a keen interest in digital technologies, he has broadened his interests, sharpened his insight and developed a strong ability to engage with a wide range of complex ideas and challenges.

Austin's interests are matched by a strong work ethic. He has approached each task I have set him with diligence, showing a systematic approach to research and problem-solving that goes beyond surface-level understanding. His curiosity drives him to explore topics deeply and not only regarding digital technologies. I have thoroughly enjoyed our conversations about issues ranging from international politics to culture to current events and other topics.

Perhaps most impressive has been Austin's personal transformation. When we first began our mentorship relationship, he was a reserved young man who found it challenging to communicate and make presentations. He recognised this as a challenge and has worked to overcome his shyness. Over time, I've witnessed his development into a confident and articulate communicator. He has learned to express his ideas and broader issues with clarity, logic, and maturity.

I was really proud that Austin made such progress in the d-lab programme and that he was placed in an internship at Dynamic Vision. Despite this being a very new and unfamiliar environment, he has stepped up, adapted and integrated very well. He has also managed to deal with the challenges of being a new employee in the world of work.

I think that Austin's combination of technical curiosity, research skills, commitment to getting the most out of the d-lab programme and personal growth has helped him to develop into an emerging talent in the digital space. His ability to discuss challenges and aspirations with self-awareness, coupled with his deep interest in new technologies, sets him up to be a potentially significant contributor to future digital innovations."

I have enjoyed my time with Austin and look forward to seeing him grow and take his place as a talented, skilled and intelligent young leader.

It would be a great privilege and I would be delighted to recommend him for any position he applies for.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kramer", enclosed within a horizontal oval shape.

David Kramer