

To the Knight-Hennessy Scholars Admissions Committee,

I am writing to offer my highest recommendation for Prashant Singh for your graduate program and the Knight-Hennessy Scholarship. As his direct supervisor at NTT Data, I have managed Prashant since he joined our team as a Senior Software Developer in May 2024. In this capacity, I oversee his contributions to our most critical banking platforms and have been consistently impressed by his technical acumen and leadership.

Prashant's leadership is defined by his proactive ownership of complex challenges. He was the driving force behind our recent initiative to re-architect a key client system using a microservices model. He took complete ownership of the project, coordinating between front-end and back-end teams and navigating complex technical requirements with confidence. His exceptional performance and the project's successful, on-time delivery led me to nominate him for NTT Data's "Star Performer Award," an honor reserved for the top 1% of our employees, which he deservedly won. This is a clear testament to his ability to achieve meaningful results.

Beyond his leadership, Prashant demonstrates remarkable independence of thought. When faced with a system performance bottleneck, he didn't wait for direction. He independently researched and implemented a distributed caching solution using Redis, a technology new to our team. His ability to diagnose a problem, master a new technology, and deploy a robust solution with minimal supervision is characteristic of an engineer operating at a level well beyond his title.

Within our team, Prashant also has a strong sense of civic duty. He is a natural mentor to our junior developers, and I have frequently observed him taking extra time to ensure his colleagues understand complex concepts. He acts as a force multiplier, elevating the skill level of the entire team. This collaborative spirit is invaluable in our fast-paced environment.

If there is an area for growth for Prashant, it is in developing a broader strategic business perspective. His technical vision is exceptional, but he is now at a point in his career where understanding the 'why' behind business decisions is as important as the 'how' of technical implementation. I believe this is precisely why he is pursuing a master's degree at Stanford. An MS in CS, combined with the interdisciplinary environment of the Knight-Hennessy program, would equip him with the strategic framework to transition from a top-tier technical leader to a true technology visionary.

Prashant has my unequivocal and strongest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Vignesh Nagarajan

TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS ARCH. SPECIALIST

NTT Data