Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE

Department of Computer Science

June 3, 2024

Computer Science Recruiting

Dear Colleagues:

I write this letter to recommend Kaden Bernhard enthusiastically for a position in computer or data science. I have known Kaden for 2 years, and have worked closely with him on two independent study projects. Kaden also served as a TA for my introductory quantum computing course. I describe these efforts below, but my summary evaluation of Kaden is that he is solid, bright, reliable, and collaborative. I recommend him to you without any reservation and sincerely hope you will offer him an opportunity to work with you.

I met Kaden when his baseball teammate and computer science student told me of Kaden's interest in undertaking independent study. I had an idea to turn cell phones into landlines while at home, so that any cell could pick up a call, and all cell phones could participate in a call simultaneously. While the description is simple, implementing such a system required investigation and federation of many systems and their APIs (application programming interface). What impressed me most about Kaden in this project was his fortitude: there were many paths we tried that didn't work out well, and he just would not give up on getting this done. In the end he constructed a system using Google phone (and their API) and the bandwidth API. Kaden clearly enjoyed learning about these various platforms and devising a way for them to work together to achieve our goals.

Subsequently, Kaden and 4 other students joined together to implement a ride-following app so that a driver in one car could follow another car without having the lead car in sight. The students developed this using firebase and Google maps. The demo for the project involved the lead car trying to lose the car following it, but every time, the following car was able to catch up. Here I was able to watch Kaden work collaboratively with the other students. I wish I could take credit for teaching that skill, but it's all on Kaden that he reads the room so well, offers help and ideas as needed, and acts always to move the team and project forward.

Kaden took my introductory quantum computing course and following that I asked if he

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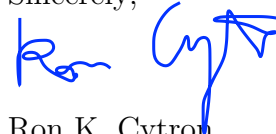Campus Box 1045
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would serve as a TA, and I am so grateful for his help in grading the course. The course had 140 students and I could always count on Kaden to pitch in with the grading.

Finally I'll remark that Kaden's studies, performed at the highest level, took place while he was playing baseball for Washington University. The practices, travel, workouts, and games took significant time, but he is disciplined to the point that he made juggling the work and his sports seem easy.

I had an opportunity to help start a company in St. Louis—Exegy—and was responsible for hiring our first software developers. Kaden is exactly the kind of developer I sought. He has a firm grasp of computer science, but this is true of all of our graduates. Kaden is a true team player and, as I wrote above, perseveres to job completion and stays calm and resilient in adversity. I would describe my work with him as fruitful, productive, stimulating, and fun. I hope you will offer him the opportunity to become your colleague. If I can be of further help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Professor
Computer Science & Engineering

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