

The SNA Foundation  
PO Drawer L  
Seldovia Alaska 99663

June 2, 2016

Dear members of the SNA Foundation:

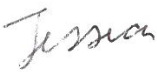
I write to recommend Seth Suydam, who was a student in my Community-Based Research course last fall here at the Colorado School of Mines. As the faculty member in charge of the social science and policy research at the ConocoPhillips Center for a Sustainable WE2ST, I am also familiar with Seth's participation in that group as an undergraduate scholar.

Seth is a serious and dedicated student, as you will note from his transcript and résumé. But perhaps what is most important is the way in which he has kept the concerns, needs and desires of his home community of Seldovia at the forefront of his experience here at CSM. While it is easy for students here to become focused on the technical dimensions of engineering, Seth has very clearly kept in mind the broader picture of how engineering can contribute to the wellbeing of communities and their local environments. This is clear in his success in my Community-Based Research course and in his research and outreach as a part of the WE2ST Center.

As a culminating social science and humanities seminar for undergraduates, Community Based Research requires a heavy reading and writing load. I was consistently impressed with the depth of Seth's engagement with the academic texts we read, especially given that they lay outside his own major specialty. He played a crucial role in the success of his team's final project, which involved interviewing and writing up an ethnographic report about the experiences of international students at CSM. I trust that this experience will serve him well as he uses his engineering training to understand and solve the biggest challenges facing Seldovia and its surrounding area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional support for Seth's application.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jessica M. Smith  
Assistant Professor  
Liberal Arts and International Studies  
Colorado School of Mines