

PO Box 3089  
Valdez, AK 99686

May 27, 2016

Seldovia Native Association Foundation  
PO Drawer L  
Seldovia, Alaska 99663

Dear Seldovia Native Association:

I am writing this letter in support of Seth Suydam's application for your annual achievement scholarship.

I know Seth through an internship he completed with the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (PWSRCAC), my employer, during this past January through May. The Council is a non-profit formed after the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill with the mission of "Promoting the environmentally safe operation of the Alyeska terminal and associated tankers." The hydrocarbon research internship Seth completed involved reviewing chemical and physical properties testing results of an Alaska North Slope crude oil sample. Using those test results, Seth investigated how those properties could impact the effectiveness of oil spill response techniques that would be used in Prince William Sound in the event of a spill. I was the manager of this internship and worked closely with Seth over the past five months to complete this project. During that time I met with Seth biweekly via videoconference for project status reports, as well as in-person twice, at the beginning and end of the project. Deliverables for the project included an in-person presentation at the PWSRCAC May Board Meeting in Valdez, Alaska, as well as a written report summarizing the findings of his research. The board meeting presentation entailed speaking not only to our 19 board members, who come from the entire region directly impacted by the Exxon Valdez spill, but also to the many regulatory and industry stakeholders PWSRCAC works with.

Seth's work during the internship was exemplary and it was an absolute pleasure working with him. During our biweekly meetings it was clear that he was interested and engaged in the work; he always had pertinent questions and comments regarding the properties of crude oil or spill response techniques. While balancing his school workload, he worked with myself and other technical experts at the Council to complete this project. Council staff and I were very impressed with how thoughtful, intelligent, and easy it is to work with Seth. He listens very well and incorporated our

advice into his final work products. When we set deadlines, Seth never failed to meet them, and before we set them he was also realistic regarding what he could get finished in that time. We gave him a pile of reference material to work with, and he was able to extract relevant information and incorporate that knowledge into his final work products. After he gave his presentation during the board meeting, I was approached by many people complimenting Seth for how clear, well organized, and useful his presentation was. After reading his final report and through conversations I've had with Seth, it is clear that he learned much during this project with the Council and enjoyed it as well. Now that the project is complete I must say I was very impressed with Seth's professionalism, curiosity, and his ability to distill analytical information into useful, real-world knowledge. These attributes, and the time I spent working with Seth, certainly indicate to me that he will be successful in the future as a petroleum engineer or perhaps in another scientific career.

I hope this narrative will help you in deciding that Seth's education is certainly a worthwhile investment for your organization. If you have any further questions regarding Seth's potential I would be happy to speak with you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Austin Love". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Austin" and last name "Love" clearly distinguishable.

Austin Love

Project Manager  
Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council  
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