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Recommendation for Jackson Leaman

I am writing to recommend Jackson Leaman for one of SMSS's undergraduate awards. I have known Jackson for a couple of years now, first as his primary MTHS advisor, and more recently as a research advisor. Michael Burr directed his research before that, and I hope that Michael will also be able to submit a letter. Regardless, I recommend Jackson for this award in the **strongest possible terms**.

First, let's talk about Jackson's **stellar course record**. His cumulative GPA is 4.0. This includes A's in MATH 8500, 8510, and 8540. He is currently registered (in his final semester) for 19 credits, including MATH 9860 with Michael Burr.

Next, let's talk about Jackson's **enthusiasm for math research**. Last semester, he approached me about starting a research project. He didn't need the credits to graduate, nor the course for capstone. He just wanted to do some more math, which he's started doing this semester, on top of his 19-credit course load.

Since we've just started the project, I can't say much specific about it. However, I can say that I pitched a softball project to him in our initial discussions, but it became clear that he was interested in something more substantial. So we are working on understanding the sequential Cohen-Macaulay property for closed neighborhood ideals of (finite, simple) graphs. This builds on research (to appear in *La Matematica*) that I conducted with former undergrad student Jacob Honeycutt, who is now a PhD student at the University of Tennessee. That project studied the Cohen-Macaulay property for these ideals, which is already an MS-level topic. The sequential Cohen-Macaulay property is even more advanced, but I'm absolutely confident that Jackson will devour it.

In summary, **Jackson Leaman is a fantastic student and talented researcher** who absolutely deserves one of our departmental awards. I recommend him in the **strongest possible terms**. Don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions about my recommendation.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Keri Sather-Wagstaff