

January 28, 2020

To whom it may concern:

I would like to recommend Travis Arsenault for a departmental award this year. He was a student in my multivariable calculus class last spring who was very engaged, always in class and an active participant. He showed he could do the mental calisthenics needed and be flexible in his approach to a problem. He was persistent in attacking a subject and pushing through to the end even when it wasn't clear how to get there. I believe these qualities will serve him well in pursuing mathematics and may be two of the most important ones needed. Travis received a B for the course but was on track for an A until the final exam. I think it often happens that students do not perform well in the context of finals week. In every other way he was outstanding. He was a pleasure to teach and contributed to the success of the class as a whole.

I think Travis will be a credit to our department and university. He is responsible and hard-working, and I think he has the mental capabilities to do well. I often let the students explore ways of solving problems in an attempt to have them discover things on their own. Travis was always an important part of these exercises.

As I mentioned above, I believe Travis's mental openness and perseverance in difficult assignments make him ideally suited to study mathematics, and I hope you will consider him for an award to encourage him to continue in his efforts.

Sincerely,

Julie Bowers Lassiter