

Educational and Psychological Measurement

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Re: **REZA NOROUZIAN**

Dear Thornberry Fellowship Awards Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to support the nomination of **REZA NOROUZIAN** for a Thornberry Fellowship. Reza is a Ph.D. student in the TLAC Department within the TAMU College of Education and Human Development. His goal is to become a professor in a Tier I university. Thus, his major and his career objectives fall squarely within the focus of the Thornberry Award.

I have taught Reza in two doctoral classes. I serve on his dissertation committee. So, I am very familiar with his abilities and character.

Reza is the brightest student with whom I have worked during my roughly 35 year career as a professor. He has advanced training in both engineering and medicine, not to mention education. He is fluent in several languages. He is extraordinarily well and broadly read. In short, he is a polymath.

It would be a gross understatement to say that he is intellectually curious. If I even casually mention a scholarly reference in class, he is going to read it. Indeed, he frequently reads all the citations in the

bibliography for any scholarly works that I share with students when I am teaching.

He is himself a very serious scholar. I have read several of his papers. They are stunning in their rigor. He also has taken to contacting leading scholars to engage them in discussion on complex academic issues. I am talking about the premier scholars in the field. And I am talking about senior scholars not only in the United States, but also in other countries, such as Australia and the United Kingdom.

I know these people. The people he has targeted for advice and suggestions are the best in the world. He has contacted them on his own initiative and without any assistance from me. What is truly amazing is that he has been able to routinely persuade these people that he himself is a serious scholar. They are engaging him as a gifted peer!

Over the course of his career he is going to impact profoundly scholarship and the professorship in his field. This fellowship will not only greatly facilitate these future impacts, but also will reflect favorably on the Fellowship itself. I strongly support this nomination.

Sincerely,

Bruce Thompson
Distinguished Professor of Educational Psychology, and
Distinguished Professor of Library Science,
Texas A&M University, and
Adjunct Professor of Allied Health Sciences,
Baylor College of Medicine (Houston)