ROSE-HULMAN

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
AND SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (CSSE)

March 30, 2012

Dear Members of the Research Experience for Undergraduates Applications Committee:

I enthusiastically recommend Dharmin Shah to you for the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program in Computational Science there at University of Houston Computer Science Department. I have watched Dharmin grow and mature over the past year, and it is clear to me that he possesses the intellect, drive, and creativity necessary to be an effective member of your REU Team. I have known Dharmin since he started at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and have been very impressed with him. Dharmin served as my Teaching Assistant this year for a Junior level course in Software Project Management, a course he had yet to take in the Software Engineering curriculum. With his diligent efforts, Dharmin learned the material quickly, provided grading support for my daily quizzes as well as some in class support with projects, and earned my respect as well as the respect of the students in the class.

Over my thirty-five year career, I served as a senior engineer, principal scientist, and corporate executive (Vice President for Research) before joining academia over eleven years ago. I launched the National Science Foundation Center for High Performance Reconfigurable Computing at Virginia Tech and currently direct the Software Engineering undergraduate and graduate programs at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (RHIT). In these roles, it has been my privilege to work with many successful engineers and scientists, and now promising/successful students. Dharmin is among the best I have encountered and promises to make some real impacts in what ever he does.

Before completing this recommendation letter, I probed my colleagues in the Computer Science and Software Engineering Department, and found that Dharmin is very well thought of both in terms of academics and character. Dharmin is intelligent, creative, driven, diligent, entrepreneurial, and trustworthy. Based on my experience and interactions with Dharmin, I'm confident that he will become a great engineer, or perhaps a scientist in the future - his instincts are very strong. With a keen intellect, he possesses a natural curiosity that will not let a problem go unexplored. Dharmin is diligent to find creative solutions and passionately pursues excellence in their formulation. He is soberly honest about his work and trustworthy in his assessments. These are qualities that, with a fine education, will propel Dharmin to reach great heights and serve the world well.

When I examine someone for a position, I often look at capabilities (education, experience, skills) and character (trust, temperament, respect for others, team-orientation). Dharmin has established a solid

academic record at RHIT (US News and World Report's #1 Ranked Engineering College for thirteen years in a row) a very competitive environment that stresses both formative and credential oriented education. But this is only part of the story. He is very goal-oriented and driven to succeed – enabling him to accomplish much in his time at Rose. Dharmin works very-well with others and has a natural ability to ask the right questions. He is very well-organized and well-spoken.

Again, I am delighted to offer my whole-hearted recommendation that you consider Dharmin Shah for your University of Houston Computer Science Department REU in Computational Science. He is a promising student and a remarkable young man, destine to do great things where ever he serves – hopefully with you and your REU team. Should you want to discuss this in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at (812) 877-8685.

Warm regards,

Shawn Bohner, Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering
Director of the Software Engineering Program
Former Dir. National Science Foundation Center on High-Performance Reconfigurable Computing
Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering