



Obed J. Dodo, Ph.D. (c)

Add recommenders
Professional address
And contact here

October 26, 2024

Dear SMART REU Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of First and Name's application to the NSF funded Smart Polymer Composite Materials and Structures Research Experience for Undergraduates (SMART REU) program at Louisiana State University. X is a Junior at Miami University and a member of the Konkolewicz research group where I am currently his graduate research mentor. Conducting research under my tutelage as a mentee, X has shown great commitment and drive for research as was evidenced in his enthusiasm to learn which has facilitated great progress in his research projects. Although X is a junior, he is already certain that his next direction after obtaining a bachelor's degree would be to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry. I am confident he will achieve this goal because he is not only highly proactive but also expressly contributes to brainstorming sessions that lead to conceptualization of new ideas, ultimately resulting in high impact research. Therefore, the SMART REU program at Louisiana State University would be an excellent opportunity suited for his skills as an undergraduate researcher and future leader in materials research.

X is a highly diligent and hardworking student and has demonstrated this by earning a total of 14 college level courses worth 47 credit hours while in high school. This is remarkable because it shows his dedication to academics and learning. Due to these achievements in credit hours from Columbus State Community college and North Central State college, X is currently on track to obtain his B.S. degree in Chemistry after spending only 3 years at Miami University, further highlighting his outstanding academic performance and records. X has excellent understanding of General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Biophysical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Physics, Statistics, and Calculus. He has also demonstrated the ability to translate knowledge of these courses into high-impact ideas relevant to materials research in our group.

Since joining the Konkolewicz group in August 2022, X has demonstrated great enthusiasm for research and also contributed to conceptualization of ideas. Although I have worked with X for only 5 months, and I have been very impressed by his performance as a mentee and an upcoming leader in the field of organic polymer materials. X concurrently works on two high impact projects with one manuscript currently in preparation for peer-reviewed publication all while taking classes and also involved in student organizations. His intellectual prowess enables his effective functioning as an undergraduate researcher wherein he has gained mastery of standard analytical characterization techniques using research instruments including NMR, GPC/SEC, DMA, TGA, DSC, and Instron for tensile testing of polymer materials. X uses these instruments to characterize organic polymers after their synthesis which he meticulously carries out using RAFT, a controlled radical polymerization technique. X is the most efficient undergraduate I have worked with throughout my career; this is because he is extremely careful and also avails himself to spend quality time in the lab. He spends a significant amount of time in the lab (18 hours over 3 days in a week) and this has given him both the confidence and competitive advantage he needs to outperform his peers. He chooses to commit that much time to learning and contributing to the advancement of his projects. This shows his passion for research and highlights the trajectory of his bright future in materials research. Due to X's immense contribution to research in our group, he is currently on track to obtain 2 peer-reviewed publications which includes a co-first authored paper by summer of 2023, all within a year of joining our team.

X works on the interface between CNT enhanced dynamic polymer composites and electronic materials where he has successfully contributed to demonstrating their applications as adhesives, organic polymer resistors, and sensing devices. Additionally, X is a great team player, highly dependable, and very personable. In summary, X is a well-rounded scientist and truly on track to become a leader in chemistry and materials science, making him an excellent candidate for this opportunity. X has all the qualities needed for him to succeed in this research-based opportunity because he is a fast learner who generates high-value ideas with a strong commitment to growth.

Sincerely,



Obad Dodo