



Medellín. September 9, 2021

Subject: Recommendation letter for Mr. Yorguin José Mantilla Ramos

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Yorguin José Mantilla Ramos very closely since April 2018, in the academic field as well as personally. Under my supervision, Yorguin, together with other seven young people from the city, was one of the founding members of “Biohacking Colombia”, a citizen group interested in the democratization of science, citizen science, scientific dissemination, and social appropriation of knowledge. “Biohacking Colombia” was housed in a citizen laboratory called “Exploratorio” (Exploratory), located in “Parque Explora” (Explore Park); a science and technology center in the city of Medellín, Colombia.

Yorguin is a young man willing to work as a team and share his knowledge; these qualities helped him to lead processes within the group that impacted various communities. For example, he contributed to seeking strategies aimed at improving the access to education of children from vulnerable sectors in our city. He assisted in the construction of low-cost laboratory equipment that was easy to replicate for children and teachers in our country. He taught robotics, biology, and electronics to both adults and children in the communities we intervened.

Many of the achievements of this citizen group led by young people, including Yorguin, are documented in social networks through diverse photos. Befitting the adage of “an image is worth a thousand words”, this can be evidenced through the following link <https://www.instagram.com/biohackingcolombia/>.

The accomplishments for our communities are countless, so much so, that with the work of the eight leaders of the group, including Yorguin, “Biohacking Colombia” through co-leader Alejandra Posada was recognized in the category of science and technology of the contest “Mujeres Jóvenes Talento 2018” (Young Talent Women 2018, <https://youtu.be/J16XKwXL0Qs>).

The group produced a multitude of broadcasts, television programs, and booklets to demonstrate to teachers and children how to build low-cost laboratory equipment. Yorguin actively participated with his knowledge in the elaboration of these materials, which are depicted in the subsequent links: <https://tinyurl.com/2fv3eur3s>, <https://tinyurl.com/pba5brk>.

Additionally, more than 500 interventions were carried out in communities, impacting more than 5000 children, young people, and adults, fostering their interest in science as a

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transformative engine of our reality and territories. Through the carrying out of this enterprise Yorguin demonstrated his great interest in social problems and dynamics, his collaboration skills, and his excellent ability to make transversal proposals based on his engineering knowledge.

I consider that Yorguin is an excellent candidate for an internship, due to his academic skills, but above all, because of his great interest in being an actor of change from science. Yorguin is a hard-working man with great interest in social causes; these qualities accompany him wherever he applies his knowledge.



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