



February 2, 2020

Dear Members of the Student Matters Committee:

I am writing to recommend awarding a Student Research Grant to *Student* to support travel to the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA) in Chicago, Illinois. Presenting at MPA is an important step in the development of *student's* research skills and for his project. *Student* began as a Research Assistant in my XXX Lab in the spring of 20XX. He was also successful in the writing version of my XXX course (spring, 20XX). I have been thoroughly impressed by the skillset *student* developed as a researcher and the way *student* approaches research.

*Student* accomplished an incredible amount in the time he has conducted research with me; in large part, due to his work ethic. *Student* is able to independently conduct research due to his experiences conducting in-depth literature reviews, working collaboratively to design studies, gaining ethical approval to conduct the research, programming the research study to collect data online, collecting data, and drawing conclusions based on our results. At each step, *Student* was motivated to learn each aspect of the process. This led him to take full ownership of the project he is presenting at MPA which examines the consequences when an individual receives too little or too much eye contact. He was in charge of each step of the process, of which we conducted multiple studies in this line of research. *Student* presented one of these studies and won first place for his proposed research poster presentation at the OSU at Newark Research Forum.

What has been the most remarkable is *Student's* growth as a researcher. He developed the ability to critically evaluate research questions and the best method for answering them. He can now create stimuli and program a study entirely independently. Recently, he began mentoring a new lab member – helping the *student* to learn the basics of research. *Student* is currently developing his own senior research project that includes incorporating his passion for politics.

Presenting and attending MPA will be a formidable experience for *Student*. He will further develop his presentation skills by sharing his research ideas with others. This will also be an introduction to an academic conference, the type of venue I anticipate *Student* will be presenting again the future. He will also get the chance to interact with other undergraduate researchers, attend sessions related to his current research and research on political psychology, and to better develop his plan following earning his Bachelors degree. I will support fully *Student's* project and development. *Student's* budget accurately captures the necessary costs of traveling to MPA. I fully endorse funding *Student's* travel to MPA — it will be a significant moment of growth for him.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Best Wishes,