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Dear Fellowship Review Panelist,

It is my pleasure and honor to recommend Mr. John Doe for a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship. **John is one of the most intelligent, creative, motivated, and hard-working students** that I have had the pleasure to know. He has great potential academically and professionally.

John's proposed work to understand the damage behavior of composite materials incurred from lightning strikes and to assess the potential losses in structural integrity of the composite material due to lightning strike damage **will significantly advance the knowledge of composite materials** and understanding of how their performance is affected (or not) by lightning events. Moreover, John's proposed work to develop a mathematical algorithm to understand wave propagation through composite materials in the event of a lightning strike **is potentially transformative to the field of high performance materials**.

John's proposed work will be conducted at Mississippi State University, where he will have access to all the computational and experimental infrastructure necessary for this type of research. In addition, the faculty with whom John will be working lead an international research consortium on multifunctional composite materials, and as a result, John be a part of an extended **international collaborative research community**.

John is **passionate about interdisciplinary research, particularly research that benefits society**. John has an exceptional range of research and outreach experiences that speak to his passion and drive in this area. He has completed three undergraduate research experiences with NOAA, the National Weather Service, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, where he has worked on interdisciplinary research teams on projects that have immediate societal impacts.

John is the epitome of professionalism. He is **active in professional organizations and is truly committed to his discipline**. John has attended numerous professional conferences while an undergraduate and now that he has become a graduate student. For example, in the past three years, John has attended the ADMI Conference, NOAA Hollings Symposium, and Emerging Researchers National Conference. At the latter two conferences, John presented the results of his research from undergraduate research experiences.

John has many experiences **engaging diverse groups via educational and outreach activities**. John comes from a very modest background, financially and educationally. John was born and grew up in the Delta region of Mississippi, one of the poorest regions in the U.S. He is the first person in his family to earn a Bachelor's degree, as well as attend graduate school. One only needs to spend a bit of time with John for it to become clear that he has an exceptional drive to succeed and to give back to society. For example, he has spent his last two spring breaks with **Habitat for Humanity building houses in Rural Mississippi**. He was recently named **Humanitarian Of The Year** by his home high school for his leadership with volunteer efforts in his home town.

John is a **strong leader, and other students naturally look up to him** and follow his example. This is evidenced by the fact that John was elected as President of the entire undergraduate student body when he was an undergraduate. While he was President of the Student Government Association (SGA), he led a group of all SGA Presidents (all public universities and colleges in the state) in a variety of initiatives. For example, he represented the larger group when presenting student body referenda to the State Legislature.

John is a **very driven and self-disciplined individual**. This is evidenced by his pursuit of excellence in athletics. He was simultaneously on his high school basketball, track, and tennis teams. John sets high goals and works diligently to achieve those goals, qualities that will help make him a successful graduate student and researcher.

I have no doubt that John will be an exceptional Ph.D. student and life-long educator and researcher. With his natural abilities in math and engineering combined with his excellent communication skills and drive to make a difference in the world, I have every belief that he will be a great asset to our profession. **By awarding John Doe an NSF Graduate Fellowship, you will be making a significant contribution to the engineering field as a whole.**

Sincerely,



Lori Mann Bruce, Ph.D.

NSF Graduate Fellow, 1993-1995

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