

To Whom it May Concern,

I am pleased and honored to recommend Jerrick Liu for consideration as your employee.

My name is Colin Leong, and I am a Machine Learning Engineer for the University of Dayton Research Institute. I work heavily with AI and deep learning methods, primarily on contracts for the US Air Force Research Lab. It was in this context that I had the pleasure to mentor Jerrick.

Working with my co-mentor James Patrick of AFRL, I mentored Jerrick as part of the Wright Scholars program. Over the course of two summer research projects, we got to know Jerrick. Based on my experiences, I am confident that he would be a valuable asset to any company.

I still remember the first interaction I ever had with Jerrick: while I was supposed to be his mentor, he ended up teaching something to me! Before the first research project had even formally begun, he took the initiative to reach out to us for background reading material so that he could prepare. Impressed at his eagerness, we were happy to provide him some tutorials and guides for convolutional neural networks. But then he impressed me again when he rapidly digested the tutorials and came back to me with difficult questions that I myself didn't know the answer to! I then got to enjoy looking into the questions myself, and ended up learning more about the subject myself. And of course, once the summer began, he hit the ground running and made rapid progress.

All this with practically no background in the programming language, or even knowledge of machine learning at all! He picked up everything he needed immediately.

This incident is quite typical for Jerrick! Similar events have played out between us ever since. Over my time with him, I have grown to see that he is enthusiastic, loves to learn, rapidly absorbs information, and has a dedicated work ethic. Presented with new tools and concepts such as PyTorch or Deep Reinforcement Learning, he picks them up incredibly quickly. And his eagerness to learn has made him a joy to teach.

To sum up, I highly recommend Jerrick for any job he may wish to pursue. His attitude, ethic, and ability both learn and work quickly make him a wonderful addition to any team. My only regret in recommending him is that I wish I could hire him for our company instead!

Colin Leong

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