

November 12, 2013

Symbi GK-12 Fellowship 2014 – Robert Sheldon

Dear Symbi Fellowship panelists,

I am writing in strong support of **Mr. Robert Sheldon**'s application for a Symbi GK-12 Fellowship 2014.

Robert is presently pursuing his PhD degree in Electrical Engineering at Iowa State University, for which I am his major professor. He has passed his PhD qualifier exam and his preliminary exam is scheduled for Spring 2014. I have known Robert since August 2010 when he began his MS in Electrical Engineering, with which he graduated in Summer 2012. In Robert's application to graduate school, **in 2010, he stated interest in eventually mentoring potential scientists and engineers** through engaging high school students in engineering projects at the company that he plans to found. In my mind this long-term interest in mentoring future scientists and engineers is one factor that makes Robert an **ideal candidate** for a Symbi GK-12 Fellowship.

In addition to his passion for electromagnetics, about which he often brings penetrating questions to our research discussions, I continue to be impressed by Robert's **collegial** interactions with me, other professors, and his peers. Robert graded for my class (MatE 362) one semester and was very conscientious about meeting with students who needed extra assistance. Afterwards he told me how much he enjoyed those interactions and offered to assist in future classes.

I will be delighted if Robert is selected for a Symbi GK-12 Fellowship 2014 as I think he is very well-suited to your program. I believe that Robert's classroom experiences will enrich his graduate school experience and positively influence his future plans to mentor young people interested in STEM fields. I fully understand the time commitment required by the Symbi Fellowship and support Robert's participation. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Bowler FInstP, Professor
Materials Science and Engineering
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Center for Nondestructive Evaluation

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

2220J Hoover Hall
Ames, Iowa 50011-2300
TEL 515-294-3202
FAX 515-294-7771

e-mail nbowler@iastate.edu

<http://home.eng.iastate.edu/~nbowler/homepage.html>

Research group: <http://home.eng.iastate.edu/~nbowler/EMDC.html>