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Catie Grant  
Director, COMM/Agency  
103 Innovation Boulevard  
University Park, PA, 16802

Dear Catie,

**Letter in Support of Jenni Castoe's application to join COMM/Agency**

Please consider this letter an unequivocal expression of my support for Jenni's application to join the cohort known as COMM Agency.

I have known Jenni for about three years. She enrolled in my SP 2017 World Media Systems (COMM 419H) course and participated in the embedded dimension of the course. Over spring break, 2017, she was one of ten (10) students and faculty who travelled to South Africa. That study tour included visits to academic, media, governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations in Johannesburg and the larger Gauteng region. During SP 2018, Jenni returned to South Africa with me for the second time – this time as an Undergraduate Research Assistant. During that second visit, she carried out interviews with respondents who are working journalists, editors including an editor-in-chief; external assessors in a not-for-profit media-monitoring agency; and with readers of the tabloid newspaper across socio-economic statuses. In the time between SP 2018 and now, I have worked with her to complete extended data collection and assessment. As I write, she and I are finishing work on two manuscripts that will be published in academic journals. I have, therefore been able to observe Jenni at close quarters; a vantage position that would have been impossible if she had enrolled in one of my classes and moved on thereafter.

Jenni is, primarily, a self-leader. She is self-motivated, very intelligent, and focused on assigned tasks. She completes assigned work with a mark of diligence and thoroughness. She works very well independently and collaboratively. It is my fervent belief that our students in the COMM/Agency under your guidance are future leaders and that those who will lead others – in the near future – have to be able to manage their own affairs and engage with others without losing self-identity. If so, then Jenni will be and find good company among your students.

Jenni has and continues to prove to be adept at gathering information competently, assessing multiple sides to the argument and reaching conclusions informed by the amalgamation of facts pulled in from multiple sources. Notably, she raises intelligent questions via conversations and through her writing. A common trait across these platforms is that Jenni is not satisfied with

easy answers. Atypically, she is always ready to spend additional time in order to secure a robust assessment.

I wish to add that Jenni's decision to apply to join COMM/Agency is – in my view – an indication that she has reviewed the demands of the engagement, assessed her own ability to devote the time necessary to carry out requisite responsibilities and has gauged the professional benefits that will accrue from this opportunity. As a result, I support her aspirations without any reservations whatsoever.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have need for additional information about this candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Olorunnisola". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony Olorunnisola, Ph.D.