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January 16, 2006

Michaela Martin
IAC Student Activities Director
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
P.O. Box 2008
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Dear Michaela,

I am writing to express my gratitude for your tremendous support during my 2 ½ years as a student in the University of Dayton Industrial Assessment Center. My work in the IAC program has been by far the most rewarding experience of my academic career. The technical knowledge and life values learned in the IAC I will undoubtedly have for the rest of my life.

A few months after I started the program, I had become technically competent enough to identify opportunities to save industrial clients thousands of dollars. Now, I have become an expert at critically analyzing and producing optimum solutions to industrial energy systems such as steam, compressed air, process heat, fluids and pumps, and HVAC.

One of the most valuable aspects of the IAC program for me was the participation in engineering conferences. Throughout the five conferences I attended during my term in the IAC, I developed several professional contacts, learned about cutting-edge technologies and concepts, and had many thought-provoking interactions with other IAC students from across the nation. At the IETC conference, I wrote and presented my first technical paper. This being the first time I had presented to a large group of professional engineers, it drove me to produce the best of my writing, speaking, and analytical skills. The paper and presentation went very well, and I am continuing to publish more conference papers. I am grateful for your actively working to send myself and other IAC students to conferences.

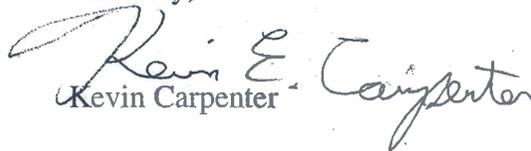
I also appreciate your support in my employment search. I took heed to every job opportunity you emailed me. Ultimately, the conferences were the most helpful to me in establishing myself with employers. It was at conferences where I had most of my interaction with the firm that I took a job offer from, Energy and Resource Solutions (yeah, that firm where all of us UD students go). I also discovered the firm Nexant at a conference, whom I almost accepted a job offer from. I find it very promising to see that the UDIAC alumni who preceded me have become extremely competent engineers at ERS and now hold project management roles.

As you probably know, I served as the lead student at the UDIAC for 1 ½ years, which had been my first major leadership role. This role made me an effective leader and taught me the value of inspiring others to work hard to complete tasks in a quality manner. The management skills I acquired as lead student will serve me well in my professional career.

The IAC program was the perfect complement to my graduate course of study. I could widely apply the theoretical concepts learned in class to industrial assessments. Conversely, the knowledge learned in industry enhanced my class project work. Because of the broad range of knowledge and skills offered by the IAC program, I believe that it is one of the most valuable programs that a university engineering department could have.

Thank you once again for your hard work in making the IAC the successful program that it is. I hope to stay in touch with you throughout my career. The number to the ERS office is (978) 521-2550, which I am sure you know already. Feel free to call us anytime.

Sincerely,


Kevin Carpenter