



To: Victor Nelson-Cisneros, Venture Grant Committee

From: Eric Leonard, Jeff Noblett, Geology Department

Date: November 4, 1997

Greetings,

We would like to urge you to support the requests from [redacted] and [redacted] to present their research at the annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Houston next March. [redacted] and [redacted] are two of our most motivated students. Independently they each sought out and were awarded summer internships at two of the most prestigious scientific institutions in the country -- [redacted] at the Smithsonian Institution, [redacted] at the Lunar and Planetary Institute. Each spent the summer involved in cutting-edge planetary geology research with top workers in the fields. [redacted]'s work at the Smithsonian involved detailed of the Bencubbin meteorite. His results will assist in our understanding of processes involved in the formation of meteorites. [redacted] has consistently been one of the top students in geology classes and a capable, independent thinker. [redacted] work at LPI involved his working with remote images of the Martian surface, investigating large surficial deposits, which appear to be very similar to, although much larger than, terrestrial rock glaciers. [redacted] is attempting to model the mechanics of movement of these features to understand whether they indicate the presence (or past existence) of ice in the Martian subsurface, a very important question in developing understanding of the Martian environment. Like [redacted] has been a highly motivated, very independent student with a strong course work record.

The annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference is pre-eminent the gathering of scientists working on planetary processes. It is a high visibility opportunity for the College to showcase the talents of our students. We are delighted with the work these students have done and strongly believe that public presentation of this science is the best way to support these students' educations. We hope you will give their request every consideration. Thank you