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To the ICSE 2012 Student Volunteers Co-Chairs:

It is my pleasure to write in enthusiastic support of Mario Barrenechea's application to be a student volunteer for ICSE 2012. My name is Ken Anderson and I am an Associate Professor and the Associate Chair of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder. I am Mario's PhD advisor; he joined our PhD program in August 2011 with an interest in the area of software engineering. I have known Mario since February 2011 when I met him at a graduate student recruiting event for our program. I immediately liked Mario and felt he had the potential to do well as a software engineering graduate student given his excellent training as an undergraduate researcher in Prof. Lori Clarke's and Prof. Lee Osterwiel's LASER lab at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. I actively recruited Mario, worked to get him a TA position, stayed in touch with him over the intervening summer and I am now engaged in obtaining research funds to hire him as a full-time research assistant.

I believe that Mario would be an asset to you as a student volunteer at ICSE 2012. He is extremely well organized, has a great personality and works well with others, and speaks English flawlessly.

With respect to Mario's organizational abilities, I have been impressed with his ability to pursue funding and fellowships since his arrival at CU. Over the past six months, he has submitted applications to an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, CU Boulder's prestigious Beverly Sears Fellowship, and several internal department fellowships that provide funding for travel to conferences. In each case, Mario was extremely organized in his interactions with me, providing me with the information I needed, what he needed from me and what my deadlines were with respect to writing letters, and the like. (Indeed, he brought the same level of organization and attention to detail for this current application.) Such organization, always well in advance of the deadlines, helped me, in turn, to meet all of the deadlines and ensure a successful submission of the application.

His organizational abilities do not end there; he is helping to reboot the ACM Student Chapter here at CU Boulder and has joined the Chapter's leadership team. I'm the faculty advisor to that Chapter and so I've been able to see Mario help the other students on the team get their first few events for the semester organized, including a large movie night that involved tracking down room registrations, obtaining the appropriate permissions, ensuring that food was ordered, flyers were made and posted, etc. Mario was a key contributor to these activities helping to ensure that all deadlines were met and the event went off without a hitch.

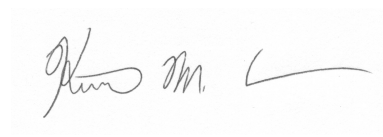
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Mario has an easy going personality and works well with others. He has demonstrated that in all aspects of a graduate student's life from service activities like the ACM Student Chapter to teaching, where he works on a team of TAs that help to cover our largest undergraduate classes, and in the classroom, where I've seen him take leadership of student project teams, and finally to research, where he is an active member of Project EPIC, a large NSF grant housed at CU that investigates how members of the public make use of social media during times of crisis. With respect to Project EPIC, Mario has taken leadership of a sub-project that is working on the development of software tools to help with pet location activities after a disaster has occurred. Mario is involved in all aspects including requirements generation, design, implementation and testing. That sub-project involves three other students and Mario integrated into that team and became a productive contributor in very short order. In that regard, he's currently leading the effort to write a submission about the pet location project to ICSE 2012's USER workshop.

Finally, Mario's English is excellent and he'll have no problems communicating with other student volunteers. Indeed, I think you will find him a pleasant and fun person to have on your staff.

In short, I cannot praise Mario enough and I believe he would be a terrific student volunteer at ICSE 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken M. Anderson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kenneth M. Anderson, Associate Professor
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