

2021 January 18

I enthusiastically nominate Dr. Clairmont Clementson for the Black Trailblazers in Engineering (BTE) program. Clairmont is an ideal candidate. He is an excellent engineer and problem solver, has a strong background in research and applied engineering, and has demonstrated leadership in a variety of positions. I believe Clairmont is well-suited for a position in academia and his participation in this workshop will be beneficial to Clairmont and the workshop.

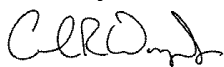
I first met Clairmont when I served on his Ph.D. thesis committee nearly one decade ago. His research focus was on measuring the characteristics and improving the flow of dried grains. This topic is of significant practical concern in the agricultural industry. I recall that Clairmont not only produced good work, but was very professional and confident in his interactions with the committee.

I lost touch with Clairmont until just over one year ago. I direct Purdue's Center for Particulate Products and Processes (CP3), which is a center that seeks to address the lack of knowledge related to particulate materials. The CP3 runs a Particle, Powder, and Compact Characterization Laboratory and a Continuous Solids Processing Pilot Plant. Purdue is only one of two universities in the U.S. to have such facilities and numerous companies invest in Purdue, in part, because of these capabilities. The CP3 needed a Lab Manager who could not only keep the facilities running smoothly, but someone who knows particle science and engineering, would impress our sponsors, work well with colleagues, expand our capabilities, and serve as a mentor for students working in the laboratory. Clairmont was the ideal candidate for this position and we hired him to start in January of 2020. In the past year Clairmont has done an excellent job managing the laboratory, working on several research projects, training students on lab equipment, maintaining equipment, and ensuring the laboratory meets all safety requirements. This last point has been especially time consuming due to Covid. Clairmont has managed all of these tasks with minimal supervision. The CP3 is lucky to have him. I'm hoping that once the laboratory returns to normal operation, we'll get Clairmont involved in additional leadership activities, such as helping to host a conference at Purdue focused on CP3 topics. Although he's an asset to the CP3, I don't expect Clairmont to be with us very long. I anticipate that he'll move on to a tenure track academic position when a suitable position becomes available. Until then, I hope we're able to make the most of his skills.

Clairmont's participation in the BTE workshop would certainly benefit him, but I also think he would also bring something to the workshop. He has a unique background: originally from Guyana, served as a Research Scientist in the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture, Ph.D. and postdoc from Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Purdue, and he's served in several leadership positions including as a senator in Purdue's Graduate Student Government, President of the Excelcius Youth Federation in Guyana, and Vice-president of Purdue's Caribbean Students Association. I expect Clairmont would be an active participant in the program.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding Clairmont's qualifications. I fully support his active participation in the BTE workshop.

Sincerely,



Carl Wassgren, Ph.D.

Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Industrial and Physical Pharmacy (by courtesy)
Director of Purdue's Center for Particulate Products and Processes