**Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program**

**Faculty Reference Form**

**To the Applicant:** This form is to be completed by a faculty member with whom you have taken at least one course. Please inform your faculty reference that you waive your rights to examine this letter when completed.

**Applicant’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**To the faculty reference:**

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in order to broaden the pool of those pursuing academic careers in higher education. The program supports individuals in selected disciplines who demonstrate a strong commitment to increasing opportunities for underrepresented minorities and advancing cross‑racial and ethnic understanding. The program at Duke uses mentoring and funded research opportunities to provide students interested in a scholarly career with a greater awareness of the challenges and opportunities of academic life. Each year, up to five sophomore students are selected as Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows; they receive stipends for the academic terms and summers for two years. Fellows work under the direction of a faculty mentor. During the two summers in the program, fellows engage in a research project that is intended to give them a sense of scholarly research activities. During the academic year, they continue their independent research. Mellon fellows are expected to use their Mellon-supported research to complete a senior thesis for Graduation with Distinction honors.

During the two years of the fellowship, Mellon fellows receive a stipend of $1800/semester, an annual travel research budget of $600, two years of summer research support, including a stipend of $3,900 and a $750 housing allowance, a $400 research budget for seniors, and a $600 allocation for a GRE prep course. In addition, fellows are eligible for undergraduate loan repayment if they enroll as a full-time student in a PhD program in a Mellon-identified discipline. See: <http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/urs-programs/mellon-mays-undergraduate-fellowship-program>

for more information.

**We would appreciate your taking the time to complete this reference form and letter in time for the applicant’s submission deadline of FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017.**

Name: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Department: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Title: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Telephone/email: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

In which course(s) have you taught the applicant?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What is/was the applicant’s standing in the course? (please check one)

\_\_\_\_ Outstanding (top 5%) \_\_\_\_ Average (at or above the mean)

\_\_\_\_ Very good (next highest 10%) \_\_\_\_ Below average (below the mean)

\_\_\_\_ Good (upper 25%)

**Please attach a separate sheet for questions 7 and 8:**

**7.** Please comment on the student’s performance in your course and his/her ability to work independently.

**8.** What is your impression of the applicant’s interest in pursuing a PhD and an academic career?

Please send a hard copy of your letter to: Deborah Wahl, 011 Allen Building,

Box 90047, or email to: [deborah.wahl@duke.edu](mailto:deborah.wahl@duke.edu); or fax to: (919) 660-0488 (attention: Deborah Wahl) by **FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017.**