**Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program**

**FACULTY MENTOR Support Letter**

**To the Applicant: This form should be completed by the faculty member who has agreed to be your Mellon Mays mentor if you are selected to be a fellow.**

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



**To the faculty mentor:**

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 and work under the direction of a faculty mentor for two years. 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. Faculty mentors receive an $800 yearly stipend.

**The student named above is applying for this program and has identified you as his/her proposed mentor. In your letter of support, we ask that you address the following:**

* **Your willingness to serve as a faculty mentor for the applicant in the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program during the two-year fellowship, which begins in June 2018 and ends in May 2020.**
* **The feasibility of the proposed summer research project, your involvement with its development, and the ability of the student to complete the project during the 8-week summer research period**
* **An assessment of the applicant’s interest in the chosen field of study and the probability of his/her attending graduate school and pursuing an academic career in this field**

**If you have any questions about the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program or the responsibilities of a faculty mentor, please contact either Program Coordinator: Dr. Tsitsi Jaji (tsitsi.jaji@duke.edu) or Jane Morris (jane.morris@duke.edu).**

**More information about the program may be found on the program website:**

[**http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/urs-programs/mellon-mays-undergraduate-fellowship-program**](http://undergraduateresearch.duke.edu/urs-programs/mellon-mays-undergraduate-fellowship-program)

Please send a copy of your letter to: Jane Morris, B206 Smith Warehouse, Bay 8N, 2nd Fl, Box 90756; or email to: [jane.morris@duke.edu](mailto:deborah.wahl@duke.edu); or fax to: 919-681-7059 (attention: Jane Morris) by: **Friday**, **Ferbruary 23, 2018.**