



Stony Brook University

WISE

Women in Science and Engineering

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Dear Search Committee,

It is with enthusiasm that I highly recommend Arghya Bhattacharya for a teaching position within your organization. As the Outreach Program Coordinator for the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Honors Program at Stony Brook University, I have supervised many graduate students and out of all of the graduate students, Mr. Bhattacharya has made a tremendous impact on our program.

I began working with Arghya in 2020. Arghya was hired as an instructor for one of our STEM educational outreach programs, High School WISE. This program aims to increase STEM education, engagement, and enthusiasm for adolescent girls. He taught and mentored within this program from 2020 to 2024. As an instructor, he was responsible for curriculum development, teaching and communicating complex scientific theories and mathematical problems, facilitating application-based STEM learning, coordinating with other instructors and mentors to assist with the of the program. During his time working for HS WISE, Arghya made an incredible positive impact on the young students and the program goals.

Through an analysis of pre and post survey data, we found that the students taught by Arghya increased their confidence in the computation fields by 30%, increased their awareness of careers within STEM by 70%, and increased their interest in Computer Science and Computation related fields by 50%. For a qualitative review, we reached out to some of the participants of HS WISE, to see where they are now and if they continued with their STEM education. 90% of the participants we reached are now pursuing a bachelor's degree in a STEM field or are planning to major in a STEM discipline. When asked "Do you remember the HS WISE program, if so what is your most significant memory or experience?" 70% of the students referred to Mr. Arghya and his class. This data speaks for itself however, when you qualify the results by identifying that the majority of the students who came to this program had little to no experience or knowledge in computer science and computation, these statistics are remarkable.

Arghya has been a model instructor, mentor, and colleague. He has truly connected with his students and mentees and has always gone the extra mile for his students and colleagues. He is an exceptionally efficient and effective verbal and written communicator. He can communicate and teach the most complex ideas and theories to various audiences. His talent to communicate challenging science topics and connect meaningfully with Faculty, Staff, and students has made an immense impact on Stony Brook University's Women and Science and Engineering Honors

Program outreach and mentoring initiatives. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Arghya over the years and experience how many young students—adolescents through undergraduates—he has inspired to pursue STEM disciplines.

By nature, Arghya is a down-to-earth person with a terrific sense of humor. He is humble yet lights up the room with his enthusiasm. He works well as both a team member and team leader. If hired as an instructor, I am certain he will be an asset to your department.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Gatta
Outreach Coordinator
Women in Science and Engineering Honors Program