Timothy P. Ryan
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January 6, 2011, 2010
Re: Support of Chris Maroldo as 2011 Alvin S. Bynum Mentor Award recipient

Bynum Mentor Selection Committee, C/O Richard E. Ward, Ph.D.
Indiana University School of Liberal Arts
425 University Boulevard, CA 401
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Dear Sirs and Madams,

It is my pleasure to offer the strongest possible support for Christopher H. Maroldo (Chris) as recipient of the 2011 Alvin S. Bynum Mentor Award. My first meeting with Chris, which was over four years ago, was in preparation for my return to Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) for the Fall 2007 semester. I had frequent interactions with Chris as I worked toward admission to the Kelley School of Business, and I also benefitted from Chris's insights when I served as a mentor for the Students Taking Academic Responsibility (STAR) Program, which he leads.

I have attended three post-secondary learning institutions, and at all I was fortunate to have been assigned excellent advisors who are models of dedication and knowledgeability; of all these advisors, Chris clearly stands out as not only the most dedicated and the most knowledgeable, but also the most capable. Regularly going above and beyond expected norms, guiding students to become self-aware and self-motivated, and making students aware of the groundbreaking and nationally recognized programs, schools and resources available to IUPUI students, Chris is a truly transformative force in the lives he touches.

Working with me to repair my damaged academic record, which showed solid As and Bs from Ball State University abruptly replaced by Ds and Fs at IUPUI, Chris showed an amazing aptitude for building strong personal relationships while still remaining a professional. My academic issues began in the Fall 2001 semester, the first day of which came just weeks after I suffered a devastating personal loss. Chris, in addition to occasionally working with me even after advising hours had ended, created an environment which utilized respect and discussion to bring about deep insights. Sharing personal stories of his own life during our meetings, Chris opened his life to me to show me that we were equals, just people with different paths in life.

Chris taught me to focus on my future steps along my path instead of judging the steps already taken, allowing me to take control of my path – my life and my future. I returned to IUPUI to pursue my chosen concentration just because it was a comfort zone, but the self-awareness I had developed pushed me to actively seek a concentration which would be a stronger and more rewarding fit for my aptitudes, personality and life goals. My

path in life has been completely transformed, for the better, because I have pursued concentrations in Accounting and Finance instead of Computer Information Systems. The STAR Program, as well, consistently pushes students to examine themselves, their behaviors, motivations, strengths and weaknesses. I worked with four STAR students this past semester, and the program infrastructure, put in place by Chris, teaches self-analysis so effectively and naturally that all four students chose to make significant life changes which would better position them for academic success; one student went so far as to move to a different part of town where he would be in an environment more conducive to studying. Chris consistently guides students to growth and maturity through rigorous self-analysis and deeper self-awareness, whether he is coaching them directly in his office or indirectly through the mentors of the nationally recognized STAR Program.

My time with Chris was particularly valuable because of his knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the opportunities and resources available to IUPUI students. The hard work, dedication and foresight of IUPUI faculty, staff and administration teams have resulted in several nationally ranked academic programs on our campus and have earned IUPUI's impressive local, regional, national and international reputation. Chris fully leverages the strengths of IUPUI's academic opportunities and award-winning student resources to engage and energize students. The format of the STAR Program constantly presents critical campus resources to students, and I believe it is important to note that these academically-struggling students usually enter the program with a pessimistic outlook on their academic future and can often pay much less money to take easier classes at another institution; to retain 70% of the students in this program, as has been described on the IUPUI website as well as discussed in *The Mentor* (an academic advising journal), is a powerful testament to Chris's ability to imbue others with his pride in and loyalty to IUPUI.

In summary, I give Chris Maroldo the strongest support possible. I consider Chris to be my mentor, my friend, and a professional in his field of the highest caliber; the selection of Chris as recipient of the 2011 Alvin S. Bynum Mentor Award will be a positive reflection on IUPUI, the University College, and on every member of the Bynum Mentor Selection Committee.

If I can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at 317-293-2883 or tpryan@umail.iu.edu.

Thank you for allowing me to give Chris my strong support.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Ryan
Bachelor of Science, Indiana University Kelley School of Business, *December 2010*
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