

Letter of Reference for Rodolfo “Rudy” Parra

Rudy Parra is a great researcher. He is willing to go the extra mile. He is careful and he is extremely positive in his job and research outlook.

He was an NSF “Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)” visitor to the very research active physics department at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. He came to Cedar Rapids from Central New Mexico Community College at the strong recommendation of Prof. Melanie Cole. He worked nine weeks in summer 2023 and yet he continues as a valued member of my research group. Rudy worked on several projects including sodium borate and silicate glass annealed glass discs (note easy to fabricate in the large size needed) for the dielectric medium for the production of micro lab plasmas (with Prof. Jose Lopez of Seton Hall University) and the making of binary glasses in the silica-germania system using rare and expensive ^{17}O enriched water incorporated into the glasses for nuclear magnetic resonance structural experiments (with Randy Youngman of Corning, Inc. and Prof. Joel DeStino of Creighton University). Also, he participated in thermal measurements of both sets of glasses. He has much experience using several devices including a variety of furnaces, balances, differential scanning calorimeters (DSCs), nitrogen glove boxes, platinum ware, and more. Also, he is excellent at giving high quality research PowerPoint presentations which he did quite often to my group as well as to the *2023 All Iowa Glass Conference* held at Creighton University in Omaha. In making presentations he frequently helped others.

Rudy is a can-do and self-starting person. He is the first to volunteer. He asks excellent questions and, overall, he is a great asset to a research group. He is uplifting with a wonderful sense of humor to boot.

For all of these reasons he has my strongest recommendation to you for technical employment or for further schooling. He is really good and I would gladly rehire him, if I was given the chance to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven A. Feller', written in a cursive style.

Steven A. Feller
BD Silliman Professor of Physics
Coe College
Cedar Rapids, UIA 52402
29 September 2023