



August 17, 2022

Dear Mr. Zhang:

As a second year graduate student, you made the Top 10 list of standout talks in COMP 600, and your growth as a presenter over the past two years made you the clear winner of the best research presentation prize in 2021-2022. We are pleased to present you with an award in the amount of \$300.

I want to take this opportunity to compliment your willingness to take a risk in the interest of your peers. Instead of preparing a research talk on a project you had already finished, you decided to focus on your preliminary work related to visualization because you thought your peers might be inspired to apply some of your techniques in their research, and you were right. One student's comment captures the praise expressed by many: *"The illustration of the random-SAT properties definitely caught my attention. It was explained in a way that was simple enough for me to understand, and interesting enough for me to want to learn more. It further justified the need to visualize -- I certainly want to understand more qualitatively how the properties behave."*

Your ability to engage your colleagues with clear explanations and sophisticated visuals resulted in lots of interaction with the audience throughout the talk. Hands raised, questions in the chat -- you got everyone thinking about how your work intersected with theirs. In other words, you achieved your goal. Outstanding!

Handwritten signature of Tracy Volz in black ink.

Tracy Volz, PhD  
Director and Professor in the Practice  
Engineering Communication Program

Handwritten signature of Chris Jermaine in black ink.

Chris Jermaine, PhD  
Chair and Professor  
Department of Computer Science