



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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September 8, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I support Mr. Benjamin A. Mærkle's application for acceptance in the professional teaching program at CCSU.

I have known Ben since his second semester at CCSU, the spring of 2012. Ben has been a student in three of my courses: TE 110 (Technological Systems), TE 155 (K-8 Technology Education), and TE 299 (Practicum) in 2012. He performed well in each of these classes, which is consistent with his overall academic record at CCSU. Last semester, for example, he earned a 3.86 g.p.a. over 13 credits. His overall g.p.a. is 3.79 over 103 credits. This includes excellent marks in Elementary Japanese, Calculus II, University Physics, Chorus, and Sinfonietta—all of which Ben has elected to take. While at CCSU, Ben has also been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, Golden Key, and Epsilon Pi Tau.

In connection with TE 299, he worked as an afterschool instructor at the New Britain Boys and Girls Club, where he co-taught Lego robotics sessions to middle-schoolers. The same semester (Fall 2012) he performed observations at DiLoreto Elementary and Pulaski Middle School in New Britain. Ben has also volunteered five times over the past three years at the twice-yearly Connecticut Electrathon, and has assisted at the past two Rebuild New Britain events in which CCSU was involved.

In addition to volunteering, Ben is an active member of several clubs at CCSU, including Christians on Campus, the High Mileage Vehicle Team, tasked with programming and electrical duties, and Hoops for Homeless, for whom he has done website and promotion work. He has also worked professionally in the IT field since 2009. For example, he has begun his second year working in tech support for two schools in the New Haven Public School district.

Finally, I will mention his work with CPEP (the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program) in the summer of 2013, fall of 2013, and summer of 2014. In each case he developed and facilitated STEM activities for K-12 students. To me, this is Ben's most significant teacher-preparation experience. That the fact that he was retained twice by CPEP is also significant.

In short, having observed Ben working with both K-12 students and with his peers, I have no doubt that he'll be successful both in the professional teaching program and eventually as a teacher. Therefore I recommend Mr. Benjamin A. Mærkle's for professional acceptance. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance in your decision.

Sincerely,

Patrick N. Foster
Technology Education Department
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