



COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
8701 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5372
www.ccac.edu

February 24, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the portfolio for Rebecca Elinich. She teaches a rigorous course with deadlines that reflect the workplace requirements and deadlines. She asks challenging ethical questions in a framework that her students can relate to.

Ms. Elinich puts in hours of service to CCAC that go beyond any reasonable requirement. She is constantly working with school groups to promote multi-media gaming. She is always updating course requirements (in a way that math doesn't have to do ...) and she is keeping current on programming languages. Her portfolio can't begin to describe how many hours each of these activities require. She is a dedicated employee who is trying to build an exciting new major at CCAC North Campus.

Ms. Elinich is in a challenging position because many of her students say something along the lines of "I want to design video games because I love playing them" and it is very difficult to encourage this major with such unrealistic career aspirations. She is polite and respectful and continues to create a positive atmosphere in the classroom as her students slowly realize that some of them might not end up as professional video game designers, a hard reality to accept.

The culture of computer science and programming is a white male dominated field. By simply being herself, she is challenging the stereotypes of what gamers look like as well as presenting a positive female role model for the students, hopefully this will translate into a more diverse workforce in programming in the coming years.

I had the pleasure of being a student in Ms. Elinich's virtual reality tutorial and it was wonderful. She was a patient teacher who anticipated many questions and then helped the group navigate the normal pitfalls in learning a new software program. I particularly liked how she warned us how VR helmets might cause dizziness because it made me dizzy and even though I could no longer wear it in the lesson, I still felt included. She created a fantastic class environment. I am lucky to have Rebecca as a fellow professor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Rebecca Senkowicz", is written over a horizontal line.

Rebecca Senkowicz, Mathematics Department