

## WILLOWS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

July 17, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter will serve as my recommendation for Michael Goad's employment at your company or institution.

Michael Goad served as Willows Preparatory School's 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Design teacher for the 2018-2019 academic school year. During his first year as an middle school educator, he demonstrated superior knowledge of his subject matter, collaborated with his colleagues to plan interdisciplinary units and events for our greater community, and participated in both professional development and a series of teaching observations and interviews that led to our school becoming the first authorized International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme school on the eastside of Seattle. Michael played a vital role in this momentous accomplishment.

Michael's Design class was unique to our school's curriculum. It covered an array of programming languages including Python, C++, Java, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The program also covered topics including computer science fundamentals (data types, variables, control flow, etc.), website development, game development, object-oriented programming, algorithm development, efficiency analysis, and debugging techniques. The program was designed through an IB Design lens which heavily utilizes the IB MYP Design Cycle. Like many agile software development life cycle models used in industry today, the IB MYP Design Cycle focuses on a few main development stages (Inquiry/Analysis, Developing Ideas, Creating the Solution, Evaluating the Solution) with the freedom of moving back and forth between these stages as requirements change or new information is learned. Michael worked relentlessly to bridge a middle school classroom – mind you, these are 11-14-year-olds – with the great work performed by computer scientists in our community and around the world.

I believe Michael's experience explaining and applying difficult computer science concepts to early adolescent learners will be a wonderful asset to any organization. His passion for computer science is contagious and the proof is the children he affected at our school. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you need any further information concerning Michael Goad's potential employment at your workplace.

My best,

Philip Razem Head of School

Willows Preparatory School

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