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6 August 2004

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This is a letter of recommendation for **Brian Tenneson**, who is applying for a teaching position in your Mathematics Department.

Brian was an excellent graduate student in the Mathematics Department at San Francisco State University while I was Chair of that department. Brian received his masters degree in mathematics here in 2001. His teaching performance as a graduate teaching assistant had been so outstanding that I was delighted to hire him as a Lecturer after he completed his degree.

Here are examples of written comments from our anonymous student evaluations of teaching from three students in courses that Brian here. The first two are from a remedial math class; the third one is from a college algebra and trigonometry class:

Prof. Tenneson is an exceptional instructor. He is more than qualified to teach any math class. Initially I wanted to drop this class, but quickly changed my mind. One can see his brilliance after a few classes. I am glad I stuck it out. I am an older student so taking these remedial classes has been challenging. I am glad the math department has someone like him teaching, who is clear and thorough in his techniques of instructing.

The class was taught very well. I felt no need to ask questions most of the time. I learned more effectively with his teaching methods than with any other professor. Really.

Brian Tenneson was the best Math teacher I ever had. He is very clear and easy to understand. Very effective teaching methods. I would highly recommend him to another student.

These written comments are supported by the numeric scores on student evaluations of Brian's teaching. His numeric scores were among the top 10% in our department (including among the tenured faculty).

Brian was never a student in a class that I taught, but I know from talking with his instructors that he ranks high in mathematical ability. Because of Brian's excellent teaching and outstanding grasp of mathematics, he is the only graduate student that I ever let teach our second semester calculus class (this was in the Summer when we were short of regular faculty).

Brian had to leave during his last semester teaching here due to a medical condition. I believe that this medical condition is no longer a factor. If that is the case, then you will have an excellent instructor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheldon Axler".

Sheldon Axler
Dean, College of Science and Engineering San
Francisco State University

July, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

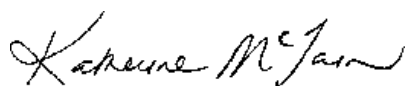
I am writing this letter of recommendation for Brian Tenneson who is applying for the Mathematics Instructor position at your institution. In my previous role as the Dean of Science, Mathematics and Engineering, I hired Brian as an adjunct mathematics instructor at Cosumnes River College during the Fall, 2004 semester and was pleased to assign him classes during the Spring and Fall semesters of 2005. During that time Brian proved to be a valued member of our campus community. This is due to his academic preparation, his teaching expertise (which is discussed in more detail in the paragraphs that follow), his personable nature and the fact that his life experience helps him empathize with many of the students served by the community college.

Brian brings many skills to the classroom. My observations of him during the Spring of 2005 revealed that Brian is able to create a relaxed classroom atmosphere where students feel comfortable. Brian's clear and thorough presentations were supported by excellent board work and clearly identified and focused on the key points and concepts in the course. Brian was also adept at getting students engaged through his use of questioning strategies as well as his ability to respond effectively to student questions. As a result, Brian experienced better than average retention and student success.

Although Brian's tenure at the college was brief, while he was here he volunteered to make presentations to the Math Club and also expressed an interest in working with other math colleagues on a mathematics problem he was investigating. This indicates that Brian understands that the responsibilities of a college instructor extend beyond the classroom.

I have been out of touch with Brian about his career aspirations or life circumstances due to the fact that he relocated to the Bay Area for a period of time and the fact that I have transitioned to another position on campus. I trust he has a more recent reference who can comment as to his present strengths and current career goals. Based on my interactions with him during the time noted above, however, I do encourage you to consider Brian's candidacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine McLain". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'K' and a stylized 'M'.

Katherine McLain, Dean
College Planning and Research
Cosumnes River College



January 3, 2007

Regarding: Mathematics Faculty Position

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to recommend Brian Tenneson for a mathematics faculty position. Mr. Tenneson taught for one semester as adjunct faculty at Cañada College. His assignment was five units of Beginning Algebra and five units of Mathematics for General Education. He was originally assigned only one class but at the last minute, due to the loss of another instructor, agreed to accept the additional assignment.

I was impressed with his knowledge, with his ability to share that knowledge with a class and with his general interactions with the students. He is an excellent instructor, provides well-prepared lectures, and his teaching style is appreciated by the students. He received very positive faculty and student evaluations. In addition to his teaching load, he attended and participated in division meetings.

Should Mr. Tenneson be successful in obtaining this position, you will gain a valuable addition to your faculty. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information to assist you in your selection.

Sincerely,

Victoria O'Donnell

Dean, Science and Technology

Cañada College

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