

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to recommend David Holmes as a great addition to your teaching faculty. I had the pleasure of working with David in the spring of 2012 when he volunteered for 10 weeks at Citizen Schools, adding roughly 5 extra hours to his weekly schedule. Citizen Schools is a national non-profit that extends the learning day in under-performing middle schools. Along with targeted academic enrichment, Citizen Schools recruits volunteers from the community to provide hands-on learning opportunities. It was in this capacity that David and I developed a working relationship. David taught one of the highest rated apprenticeships in North Carolina: Computer Game Programming.

Over the 10-weeks, volunteers work with their staff partner to plan, organize and facilitate teaching which culminates in an end-of-semester event where students demonstrate mastery of the apprenticeship topic. Citizen teachers receive observations that result in development of student engagement, classroom management skills and teacher-student relationships.

An exemplary volunteer, David planned the progression of the course, devised creative weekly lessons with measurable objectives, mentored students and facilitated a class of twelve 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. He collaborated with his co-workers to bring in more volunteers and provide multiple resources for the students. David also planned an off-campus field trip for the students. The students were able to visit and tour the Wireless Generation offices, speak with employees, and participate in a Skype interview with a game programmer. David built impactful relationships with the students; furthermore, David was able to engage every student in the classroom. At the end of the 10 weeks, students successfully presented their computer games to an audience of parents, teachers, and community guests.

David engaged with the students with ease. He created exciting activities and always facilitated lessons with fervor I would describe as refreshing and highly effective. David integrated school day concepts, such as math, to make the skill of computer programming relatable to the students. The lessons always integrated 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as technology, collaboration and teamwork that helped to make students well-rounded learners.

He did a great job of minimizing complex jargon and making it easy to understand for students. This is an invaluable skill and something integral to teaching physics. I have no doubt that his ability to relate to and build relationships with students, his unwavering dedication to high expectations, and his knack for developing engaging lessons will

make him a pivotal leader on your team. In summation, I highly recommend David to the position of physics teacher at Cary Academy.

Please feel free to reach me at [keswoboda@gmail.com](mailto:keswoboda@gmail.com) for any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

Kim Swoboda