SNAPTORTOISE

April 28, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of John Ossowski. As part of his curriculum with The Tech Academy, a software development bootcamp in Portland, OR, John had a two-week internship with Snaptortoise Web Design & Development (a business that I have been running since 2006). I worked with John to create pedaldriven.com, a community website that showcases the people behind bicycle-based businesses, projects and lifestyles. To offer some context, this web site represents the latest evolution of a project related to bicycle-based advertising that we have been working on for the past 10 years. You can learn more about this project from the Ads-On-Bikes website.

John played a key role in the determining the scope of the project, which technologies we would use as well as developing the site and generating content for it. From the beginning, John demonstrated good project management skills in setting the scope of a project that was to be completed in a relatively short period of time. I knew that John had experience managing a software development project at Portland State University and it obviously helped him here. I am a sole proprietor and manage a varied portfolio of other projects. I appreciated being able to assign John tasks and see results with minimal direction on my part.

I tasked John with making a number of modifications to the WordPress "Candid" theme. He learned how to create a child theme and write custom CSS to achieve the results we wanted. John used Gravity Forms to create three forms on the site. The most complex of these forms was the one for submitting user stories. John included logic and some formatting that made posting user stories easier on the admin side. John also gained experience with the MailChimp API, which was used with our newsletter sign-up form. Finally, John took it upon himself to edit content we had collected previously for the site and recruit a long-distance bicycle traveler to share her story on the site.

John demonstrated a unique blend of technical, creative and social skills that made this project a success. It was especially gratifying to see how John progressed in his technical skills after his bootcamp experience. He is a fast learner and I am confident he will continue learning on his own and on his next job. I am happy to provide any other information about John, so please feel free to contact me at george@snaptortoise.com.

Sincerely,

George Mandis
Owner, Snaptortoise Web Design & Development