



The College at
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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation in strong support of Logan Rath for promotion to the rank of Senior Assistant Librarian. I have known Logan since the beginning of the 2008 Fall semester when we began collaborating together in an effort to help strengthen the awareness of library resources available to the students pursuing their teacher certification in our Childhood Inclusive Program.

To be honest, 3 semesters ago when I began thinking of ways to introduce my students to the vast resources our campus library has to offer I had not even considered the immensely important human resources that, without which, leave our students with what I consider to be a superficial understanding of how to go about fully understanding, retrieving and utilizing what is available to them as members of our campus community. This perhaps reveals some of my own personal shortcomings as I was unable to really have a clear vision of the myriad potential resources available to our campus students, much less how to help them tap into these resources. Then I was introduced to Logan.

Having never collaborated with anyone at the library up until this point I did not know what to expect from the instruction my students and I would receive. I had sent an e-mail communication prior to coming in to the library that detailed the goals I was hoping to meet and was very impressed that Logan not only worked towards meeting those goals, but really went above and beyond my expectations. Logan demonstrated a strong ability to lend his expertise to my instructional objectives which resulted in a meaningful integrated class session that surpassed what I would have been able to have taught on my own. In addition, Logan also showcased his ability to teach to and connect with students in ways that help to foster positive, on-going relationships. His own educational experiences allow him to relate directly with our students' questions and concerns as beginning educators, and he has a genuineness that make students feel comfortable coming to him for guidance. This became quite clear to me when I began overhearing my students talking with each other in class about needing to get in contact with Logan in order to have some of their questions answered. I was thrilled that our students had been able to build a strong relationship with Logan, but realize my collaboration with him was only part of the reason. Our program spans over 4 phases, with student teaching constituting the final phase. Logan collaborates with professors in all 3 of our beginning phases (including phase 2 when I teach our students), and in essence builds a profound relationship with our students that spans across the better part of their certification program.


Over the course of the past 3 semesters Logan and I have developed a wonderful collaborative relationship where we have worked together to continue to fine-tune our instruction. I have been impressed with the fact that Logan is constantly reflecting on what we have done previously in an effort to improve our instructional approaches. An example to illustrate this is

the fact that Logan and I have both discussed that we would like to have our students' exploration of library and digital resources more interactive as we share a common philosophy that students learn best when they are able to apply new learning in meaningful ways. Knowing that this was a goal we had discussed at the end of the Spring 2009 semester, over the summer months Logan investigated ways to achieve this goal and brought them to my attention during a meeting early this Fall. I loved his idea of having our class co-create a Google document as a way of assessing and sharing great instructional resources found within the library and on-line. By the end of our class period my students were able to walk away from our session with a valuable "peer reviewed" document with forty-eight annotated submissions. This type of collaborative learning is in keeping with the social constructivist philosophy held by our department and I have been so impressed with how dedicated Logan has been to really getting to know, not only my classes, but our department so he can lend support to our students in ways that will help ensure their success. Simply put, when professionals are on the same page the students benefit in countless ways. Not only do the students get the benefit of consistency as they use the library to meet classroom and field requirements, but they also benefit from seeing successful collaboration being modeled for them.

At this point, I have truly come to view Logan as an integral part of my teaching team and cannot imagine a semester without collaborating with him. I can say with confidence that working with Logan has absolutely resulted in my becoming a better professional. In addition to what I have spoken to already, Logan has helped me to develop my technology skills, which I have been able to take right into the classroom to help prepare our candidates for integrating technology into their teaching practices. He is very flexible and works diligently to accommodate my schedule when planning meetings or common instructional times. He has led instruction at the library, and has also come in to teach classes in Cooper Hall when that has seemed a more convenient option. Additionally, Logan has reached out to our department by joining one of our faculty meetings last year in an effort to let members of our department know ways the library can support our instruction, and he also took part in one of our department's professional development presentations where he co-presented with one of my colleagues. At the presentation we all learned how to use i-Tunes U with our students. Logan and I also co-presented at a CELT presentation where we shared ways in which we collaborate to help ensure student success. We have set future goals to pursue opportunities to begin exploring potential conferences where we can showcase the ways we have found to build bridges between the campus library and the college classroom.

In conclusion I would like say that I feel Logan is a strong candidate for promotion to the rank of Senior Assistant Librarian. He is truly dedicated to the students and professionals he works with, and I feel confident that he will continue to push himself to find ways to make positive contributions to our campus community through instruction and scholarship. Please feel free to contact me if you would like me to comment further and I will be happy to speak to you.

Sincerely,



Allison M. Wright
10-2-09