

Letter of Recommendation
for
Aaron Picker

Rick Neff

February 13, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter to recommend Aaron Picker, a software engineer seeking employment, to you, a potential employer.

I've known Aaron for only a short time, starting September 2020 when he enrolled in my course on Discrete Mathematics at BYU-Idaho. We've never met in person, only via Zoom meetings. And outside of class, more one-on-one Zoom meetings, and many direct message conversations have allowed me to get to know him better, as a student and as a person.

Aaron is a great person, and a great student, one of the best I've had the privilege to teach! But not because of his preparation and prior knowledge.

To explain — Discrete Mathematics could be called Math for Computer Science, and covers topics anyone seeking to understand computers deeply should know. It's a challenging course, even for students with a solid math background. It encourages students to look below the surface, to dig deeper into some barely-touched-on topics, to never settle for the superficial, and to make connections between seemingly unrelated ideas.

Despite a shaky start, where Aaron doubted his ability to even survive the course, he ended up excelling in these areas, unlike many students who give up. Not only did Aaron not give up, he gave his all, investing many hours a week into learning the material, engaging in meaningful discussion, and working with other students well beyond any class requirements to do so. His aim was never to just get through Discrete Math. He wanted to know it. In the end, an A in the course was my delight to award him.

I attribute his success not only to his work ethic, his willingness to ask for help, and probe and struggle and not stop until the light and understanding come, but also his willingness to help others succeed. Aaron was a stellar role model for his classmates, showing them that the best way to learn is to teach, lifting and helping others to do the same.

As well, it is Aaron's mental and emotional maturity, his patience and tenacity, that make him a great student. These are qualities that characterize strong candidates for any position where problem solving is a paramount skill. Aaron is a great problem solver, too, because of his humility in the face of challenges, and his hunger and drive to wrestle them to submission. Were I in a position to do so, I would hire him in a heartbeat!

Any employer-employee relationship should be a win-win proposition. I fully expect that if you hire him he will be a perfect fit for any role at any level, and both your company and Aaron will be abundantly strengthened by your association.

It is my wholehearted pleasure to recommend him to you!

Please contact me if you'd like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Rick Neff, PhD

Professor

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