June 12, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of reference for Mr. Pankajeshwara Sharma. I know Pankaj as he has worked with us for more than two and half years now. He joined us in October 26th 2009 as a Lecturer in Computing Science with a salary of 32,000 FJD. As with most University academic staff, he was hired on a three year contract as a fulltime staff working for atleast 38 hours per week and his main tasks included teaching Computing Science programming courses.

Pankaj came with a blend of academic and industrial development skills background which the department needed for some time. Since he has joined us, Pankaj has worked industriously within the department delivering final year and post-graduate Computing Science courses and undertaking projects within the University. Pankaj's skills were used mainly in the Programing, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Games Programming and Business Intelligence areas of the Computing Science department.

Pankaj has been actively involved in the department initiative to review and upgrade the IT/CS course structures. He engaged extensively in researching on course structures of other institutions and liaising with the External Advisor. Pankaj engaged as a key member of the Review team, spending numerous hours devising new course structures for the University. Also, we have seen Pankaj contributing and guiding continuously as we implement the new structures. He has indeed provided a very high valued and quality contribution.

Pankaj has continued to involve himself in University committees and interest groups. Specific mention needs to be made about his technical services role for the department where he engages in software installations, version upgrades, compatibility checks and other technical support role so that all laboratory facilities in terms of learning resources are in order. In terms of teaching, Pankaj has done exceptionally well. He has deployed "coaching style" approaches to accomplish student IT projects resulting in some very good software projects, including the Web-based University Student Information & Registration application as well as Mobile Application for Diabetes patients and Tourism Fiji. Having had commercial experience in his areas, Pankaj has been pushing for excellence in his area of teaching by devoting more time and effort for student learning. Student feedback has been good.

Pankaj has displayed strong research capability. He has developed completely new courses by doing extensive subject area research. These courses, both at undergraduate and post graduate levels are based on emerging technologies and provide a strong industry focus. The department has been benefiting from Pankaj's resourcefulness. He has also been involved in orienting other staff members in curriculum research work.

Pankaj is a key member of the team. He is innovative, hardworking, likes to make a difference, sensitive to the surrounding, takes interest in student learning and relates well with staff and students. I have no reservations in firmly recommending Pankaj as a future professional employee. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further information regarding him.

Yours Truly,

Sanmugam Gounder,
Senior Lecturer & Head of Department
Department of Computing Science and Information Technology
University of Fiji.
SanmugamG@unifiji.ac.fj/SanmogamG@yahoo.com
Phone (679) 6640700 Extension 142