

February 5, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with a great deal of confidence that I am writing to recommend to your organization one of my most valuable hires and an extremely capable colleague, Sara Clark. Based on my experience with Sara, when given the opportunity to use her sound judgment, remarkable resourcefulness, and enthusiasm for learning new things she is a strong addition to any team she opts to join.

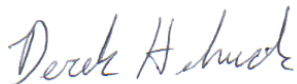
Around the end of the pandemic, as a Director at Foghorn Consulting (a DevOps consulting company), I was charged with devising a program to bring new hires into our ranks as our contracted time was quickly outpacing our staffing levels. A friend and prior colleague with whom I run local meetups sent me Sara's resume as a person he had started mentoring who was interested in the field. To this day, I often thank him for the recommendation as she proved invaluable to our work.

After adding Sara full time to our ranks, she quickly got up to speed on a number of technologies utilized in our internal software stack. She was actually so prolific that we dedicated much of her time to working with a senior engineer on feature development, reliability improvements, and bug fixes for that tooling used to manage the work of more than 80 engineers billing dozens of clients for 10,000+ hours a month. Her work was vital to our operational efficiency and her ability to tackle so much work independently -- beyond what we were expecting a new engineer to produce -- allowed us to defer hiring additional engineers and indeed, to delegate her senior on the project to a more project management type of role merely overseeing her work.

This was actually doubly remarkable as the senior engineer Sara was working with originally professed to not want to manage the work or workflow of others; but in his time working with her, he found the experience to be so enjoyable that he actually started considering non-independent contributor roles in the field.

I can, without reservation, recommend Sara to any group where she will undoubtedly continue to be a profoundly impactful member of the team. I further encourage anyone with questions to reach out to me as I am more than willing to discuss my time with Sara and what a remarkable engineer I repeatedly found her to be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Derek Helmick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Derek" being more prominent than the last name "Helmick".

Derek Helmick

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