



## **Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School**

65 Pleasant Street

Upton, Massachusetts 01568-1499

P: 508-529-7758 x 2514 • E: [cswan@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:cswan@valleytech.k12.ma.us)

To whom it may concern,

It is my absolute pleasure to recommend Kevin Downing to your community.

I have known Kevin, as his Advanced Placement Language and Composition teacher, since the fall of 2019. Throughout the school year, Kevin proved to be a hardworking, thorough, and dedicated individual who made sure to put his full effort into every class period in which we met.

I have seen Kevin grow exceptionally throughout the term of my time knowing him. At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, like many students entering a class based solely around rhetoric, Kevin was nervous regarding our AP Language and Composition curriculum. I distinctly remember Kevin coming to visit me at the end of his sophomore year to talk to me about what to expect as a junior, what his goals were for his career, and his passion for making the most of every opportunity he has. I'll never forget how impressed I was a meeting such a thoughtful young man. Through the year, Kevin was honest with his struggles in writing, sought out extra help, reflected on opportunities for growth, and took constructive feedback to push for better understanding when he was unsure of a concept. It was this dedication to understanding beyond a score that are what earned Kevin is 5 out of a possible 5 on the AP Language and Composition exam a score only 13% of global testers earned.

Kevin is especially dedicated to his work outside of academics as well. Kevin is a member of the Electronics and Engineering Technology shop at Blackstone Valley Tech, a field he has taken a great interest in throughout his term at BVT. Kevin regularly challenges himself in his field by earning such accolades as the Innovative Technology Award, which included a \$4,000 prize for his efforts, the Gold National Web Design Challenge in 2020, the Engineering of Excellence Award, and his skilled in DC Theory, AC Theory, NI Multism, NI Ultiboard, and a great wealth of other programs that he puts to impressive use.

Kevin's interests, however, do not end inside the walls of BVT. Kevin is a dedicated runner and participates in multiple seasons of track. He takes great care to be part of the athletic community because he is well versed in the importance of physical exercise as well as mental exercise. Furthermore, he is a member of the National Honors Society and the National Technical Honor Society both of which are organizations that require a comprehensive application which only proves Kevin's dedication to his community.

If you are looking for a member of your community who has a genuine thirst for education, has the maturity to approach every opportunity as a learning opportunity, and truly understands what it means to put his best effort into everything he does, Kevin Downing is your ideal candidate. It is with no hesitation that I highly recommend him to you.

Thank you,

Chelsea Swan



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### Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School

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Raymond A. Lehner Jr.  
508-529-7758 x:2309  
Science Department Team Leader  
AP Physics Teacher  
Advisor: BVT Aviation Club  
[rlehner@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:rlehner@valleytech.k12.ma.us)

September 18, 2020

To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write a recommendation for **Kevin Downing**. Kevin was a member of AP Physics I class last year. I am very pleased to report he achieved a qualifying score of "3" on this, arguably, the most difficult of College Board AP Exams. Kevin also achieved a perfect score of 280 on the Science & Technology MCAS exam. Kevin is currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class of 302 student in the class of 2021. (Top 1%) It takes a 4-year commitment to studies and class responsibilities to have this class ranking. It is an commitment and achievement that started day one when Kevin and his classmates arrived at our school. This will most assuredly qualify him for the John and Abigail Adams scholarship! Kevin is successful by relying on his personal nature, which is to acquire success through applied and dedicated effort. It is also his manner to achieve. He is not intimidated by new information as he is confident in his ability to assimilate it through his tried and proven methods. He also advocates for himself whenever he feels communication is not fully and mutually understood.

Kevin is a member of one of our more challenging shops, Electronics. He has become very successful there and his teachers speak very highly of him. He has particular skills in basic AC/DC theory, troubleshooting circuits, soldering, and has knowledge of testing equipment like oscilloscopes, digital and analog meters, and function generators. Kevin is a very involved member of BVT Robotics. He was a participant on a 4-day field trip to Florida that I chaperoned last January. His behavior was impeccable and he was a leader who helped keep the other 43 students in line and on time.

Kevin, now in his senior year, has chosen to take AP Calculus, AP History, and AP Biology! This ambitious schedule is something Kevin aspires to and is evidence of his commitment to challenging himself.

If anyone would like more information about **Kevin Downing**, please feel free to contact me personally at the above address and number.

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Lehner Jr.  
Science Department Team Leader  
AP Physics Teacher  
Advisor, Aviation Club



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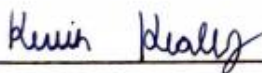
I have known Kevin Downing for over three years at the time of writing this letter. He is the head programmer for the Smart Escape team, a diverse group of 9 people, consisting of several engineers, programmers, and businessmen, working towards improving building evacuation. Throughout the entire time at his position, he was able to solve and automate our difficulties mapping safe routes in a burning building. Through leading two other programmers, he managed to break down what took hundreds of hours to just under a single hour.

Whenever we attend entrepreneurship competitions, Kevin makes sure to always be there and help the whole team gather its materials. He helps write the script for the presentations and informs everyone about the technical details of the project. His immense knowledge of the programming field and enthusiasm for helping others make him the ideal candidate for NHS and NTHS.

Throughout the entire development process, he has shown to be open about his schedule and flexible to change. The Smart Escape evacuation technology is incredibly unique which makes programming the tools and devices for our team evermore difficult, leading to many revisions and attempts. Kevin was open to feedback and listened to the criticism about how the program should work under certain circumstances. He was also open about his busy schedule which led us to get more programmers whom he managed to get immediately up to date and working on the project.

I can't wait to see what he has in store for the future and believe that he will achieve immense success in his pursuit to become a software engineer. I believe that Kevin would be an excellent candidate for NHS and NTHS.

Sincerely,

  
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