

*Istituto del Sacro Coure
Via San Francesco di Sales, 18
000165 Roma, Italia*

May 25, 2004

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Victor Boulanger. I first met Victor as a friend of one of our teachers when he first came to Josephinum to do some volunteer work. As an Information Technology Lawyer with plenty of practical know-how he quickly solved the computer problem we were experiencing and returned a few days later to upgrade another computer. Over the next months Victor returned a number of times to volunteer and for a few days was able to do some substitute teaching. During a conversation he confided that he was not finding his position at the law firm very satisfying and thought he would like to explore teaching. At the end of that school year I found that I needed to replace our Technology teacher and immediately thought of Victor. Although he had no formal teacher training he was intelligent, creative, and from what I had observed when he substitute taught he had a natural instinct for dealing with students.

During the next two years that it was my pleasure to work with Victor the school was able to make enormous strides technologically, upgrading the second computer lab, networking the entire school and developing a new computer learning center in the library. Josephinum is a small urban Catholic girls school serving minority students in Chicago. To accomplish our goals we needed to stretch our meager budget and were greatly assisted in our efforts by several groups of senior students from DeVry University. Victor worked with me to tailor the different DeVry projects to fit Josephinum's technology plan. He capably coordinated the project groups and communicated with contractors and other faculty members to ensure that the work carried out did not interfere with regular classroom activities.

Knowing how important it would be for all members of the faculty to begin to integrate this new technology as a learning tool I called on Victor to help faculty upgrade their own skill levels. After surveying teacher's needs he offered after-school workshops. Towards the end of his first year he presented at a faculty meeting giving the outline of a revised introductory technology course. During this thoughtful presentation he indicated at what point in the year other teachers could expect freshmen to have acquired skills that could then be used and consolidated in their various disciplines. With the librarian and English teachers he set about revising the approach to acquiring research skills so the girls could take fuller advantage of our improved internet connectivity. His skill as a lawyer was called upon to help craft our computer use policy.

Victor is able to engage in reflective practice and during these two busy years he continued to grow as an educator. In his classroom you were aware of both the relaxed atmosphere and focused student energy. This was particularly noticeable because the

teacher he replaced had not had good classroom control and the girls had steadily lost interest in computer studies. Now students were again experiencing a sense of accomplishment and a desire to learn. Struggling students were followed up carefully and gifted girls challenged. Victor also offered an after school computer club which helped students learn to refurbish donated computers. These computers he then sold for a nominal fee to our delighted families.

I am very happy to recommend Victor Boulanger to you knowing that he will make a wonderful contribution to your school community. In my opinion he is a far better educator than many of the credentialed teachers with whom I have worked. If for any reason you would like to speak further regarding this candidate please feel free to contact me at (Country Code 39) 06 68 13 27 91 or e-mail me at aussierscj@virgilio.it

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Donna Collins', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a stylized flourish.

Donna Collins, RSCJ
Principal of Josephinum 1996 - 2003