

December 19, 2021

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Gengkui Liu

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter in enthusiastic support of Gengkui Liu for as a cartographer for your posting. Gengkui is in his first year as a Master's student at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in Cartography and GIS. As the teaching assistant for his Introduction to Cartography lab this fall, I was a first-hand witness to Gengkui's creative process while learning production print cartography utilizing an ArcGIS Pro to Adobe Illustrator workflow. Gengkui entered the course with a solid foundation in GIS from his undergraduate degree and professional experiences, but he had yet to formally engage with the theory and application of cartographic design in a print production context. By the end of the course, it was clear that he had nurtured the skills necessary to execute creative, effective, and iterative cartographic design spanning various map types (reference and thematic) in a single semester.

Gengkui holds an impressive work ethic that is among the best I have seen in my five semesters teaching the lab portion of this course. He met every requirement, check-in, and deadline. His quality of work and consistently positive, energized, idea-rich performance earned him high marks. He did not miss a single opportunity to submit revisions or illicit feedback that would improve his maps. While cartographic theory and design are the center of our introduction course, it is supported by a foundation of individual professionalized assignments reviewed by cohorts to provide critique. Gengkui consistently responded well to critique as well as provided formative critique to others' work. He integrated feedback quickly while also bringing his own ideas and solutions to various design challenges. He also did not hesitate to seek out clarification when confused, and visited my office hours regularly, working across platforms (Slack, Zoom, in-person, and remote) without issue. His work this semester evidenced his ability to work effectively both in teams (cohorts) and individually. I will also direct your attention to his concurrent employment on the State Cartographer Office team—a clear indication that Gengkui is skilled working in diverse collaborative contexts.

In reviewing my small purview of his capabilities (not including his extensive technical and coding abilities outlined on his resume), I am confident that Gengkui will be able to conceive, design, and prototype creative cartographic design solutions that support a quality user experience with your team, and not only because he has the training and experience to do so, but because he is driven to.

Mr. Liu would be an asset to your team.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further details.

Sincerely,



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