



REED COLLEGE

Mathematics Department

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Dear Winona State University Tenure and Promotion Committee,

I would like to write to strongly support Todd Iverson for tenure and promotion at Winona State University. I served as program chair for the 2019 Symposium on Data Science and Statistics at which Dr. Iverson gave the talk "Teaching Data Science Students to Write Clean Code." I can safely say that of all of the talks at the conference, Dr. Iverson's talk had the most direct impact on my teaching. I am currently teaching a data science course and added several of Dr. Iverson's suggestions into both my teaching and assessment materials. (His talk is also helping **me** to write better code.)

I would also like to address Dr. Iverson's presentation skills as I felt that he gave the audience a good understanding of him as a teacher. Dr. Iverson has a fun, playful, and rather self-deprecating presentation persona. I can see this persona making him very accessible to his students. He taught the audience about writing clean code (a rather dry topic usually) through a fun fictional story about a student assignment where the student is the hero and the professor (Dr. Iverson) is the villain. His student iterates through refactoring their code, going for rather messy code to nice, clean code. Throughout the iterations, Dr. Iverson gives us concrete suggestions of ways code should be refactored and clearly explains why these are good practices. He used pictures, highlighted code chunks, and even stick figures to help tell the story in a clean and engaging way. He reinforced the key takeaway messages throughout the talk and provided us with useful additional resources at the end. I was wildly impressed with the amount of effectively covered content in his talk.

Future statistics and data science students are in good hands with Dr. Iverson. Not only is he an excellent presenter, but the content I have seen him present tell me that he is at the forefront of data science education. I look forward to the future contributions that Dr. Iverson makes to our field. I strongly believe Winona State University should grant Dr. Iverson tenure. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have.

Best,

Kelly McConville

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