

Recommendation for Gerald 'Jay' Rideout

“I do perceive here a divided duty”

Shakespeare, Othello, I,iii,180.

I write a recommendation for Jay Rideout with mixed feelings. I am happy to endorse and validate his abilities and value as a teacher, yet I am compromised by the possibility that this recommendation may lead Jay to a place other than here, when I would wish to keep him here. Jay is a solid, capable teacher, well versed in the science of his profession, and possessed of honor and integrity at a height seldom seen in this day and age; he approaches teaching as a vocation and a career.

Jay's educational background speaks for itself, and coupled with his work experience here and abroad, his teaching and experience in other areas, he approaches his classes with a perspective that is broad, encompassing, appropriate, and engaging to students as well as colleagues. His preparation is thorough and commendable, and he is most collegial, never afraid to seek out the counsel of his colleagues, and never reluctant to share his own materials and strategies with his fellow teachers. This collegiality and intellect makes him well respected among his fellow professionals.

One of Jay's strongest qualities is his ability to lead students to their own understandings without dictating to them an answer. He teaches without 'enabling', and I use that word in its current sense of negativity. Jay will help students to a concept or door of understanding, but he will not carry them through the door. He will lead them to the door, open it, and then with patience and determination wait for them to walk through on their own. He will not, in the negative sense of the word, 'carry' them, and as one who leads students to understanding rather than providing pre processed conclusions, he is a very effective teacher in the long run of enduring understandings.

Likewise, Jay is possessed of an honesty and integrity that is as highly valued as it is highly rare. He is devoted to honesty and truth, and as such his words and deeds have value and meaning to all around him, as adults and students alike know that what Jay does he believes, and what he believes he does, making him one to be trusted and treated with respect. All institutions need such models, and we as a school have been better because of Jay. I would like to keep him, but well I know that he must remain true to himself and follow the path he must follow. Should he leave us, our loss will be another school's great gain. I recommend him with no reservations.

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