



November 4, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am glad to commend Derek VanAlthuis for consideration in a broad range of positions related to communication and media production. My experience with Derek as a student in my courses— Foundations of Human Communication (COMM 111), Persuasive Speaking (COM 201), Communication Theory (COMM 301), and Senior Seminar (COMM 410)—makes this recommendation letter a pleasure to write. I believe you will find Derek intelligent, industrious, and ethically deliberate as a colleague or employee.

The qualities that distinguish Derek's work from other students that I have had the pleasure to teach include his generosity of spirit and his excellent work ethic. In a class full of discussants, he is the kindest of interlocutors. Fully able to grasp even thorny concepts, he would nonetheless do so in a way that was humble and quick to listen. He was also willing to participate in workshop exercises that required him to have a good sense of humor. For example, when acting out a role-play assignment related to organizational communication, he was careful to make his performance a thoughtful embodiment of the communicational theory we were discussing.

His academic gifts found expression in competent writing, articulate oral presentation, and competent media production. In a stack of papers, I could count on his to be well-formulated, attentive to and yet reaching beyond the assignment protocols. His media professors could tell you that his film and audio production skills show evidence not only of artfulness, but also of diligence. I would particularly commend him as a strong, generative team-player.

For his relational awareness, as well as his diligence with scholarly and production projects, I am glad to commend Derek Van Althuis as a promising candidate for communication- and media-related positions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Mattson', written over a large, stylized blue flourish.

Craig E. Mattson, Ph.D.
Professor, Communication Arts
Trinity Christian College