

February 21, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of John Barclay's nomination for the College of Education Academic Professional Excellence Award. As the College database administrator, I have worked closely with John since I joined OET 5 years ago. I have great admiration for John and highly recommend him for this recognition.

Work Contributions

John has been instrumental in planning and developing the foundational applications we use in the College, such as the Form Processor suite, the Faculty Staff Directory, the Faculty Research Profiles, the College intranet, User Webs, and many other applications. In particular, his leadership, skill, and efforts on the College website redesign were broad in impact – hitting on a critical College gateway as well as affecting how College faculty and staff maintain and work with the website. John's programming skills combined with his vision and ability to think in big picture terms is a tremendous asset.

Personal Contributions

John's work ethic is rock solid. Not only does John work hard, but he is judicious with how and where he spends his programming time. John strikes a nice balance between being a team player and being very productive individually. He is a self starter who's example and leadership sets the tone for the team.

John brings a unique and grounding perspective to OET. John is hardly verbose – yet he can convey insightful thoughts in amazingly succinct statements. His vision is unclouded and he prompts others to think. John keeps the office environment light-hearted. A meeting is definitely more enjoyable with John in attendance.

Finally, despite having the intimidating title of “programmer” – John has the ability to interact with faculty and staff no matter the skill level. He listens, senses the unsaid and misunderstood, and responds with a sensitivity and care that puts users at ease.

Professional Contributions

The University Webmasters Forum has become a respected resource thanks, in part, to John's continued efforts to organize, share and create a professional peer network across campus. He has lead by example, putting on numerous workshops, sharing code, and participating in campus wide events. John's outreach and peer support have garnered our office and our College respect in the technology arena and paved the way for the rest of the IT staff to follow suite. John also takes his skills off campus, selflessly aiding local community groups in their programming needs.

Programmers are often unrecognized back stage staff with few signature lines on their work. John is a critical element within OET's IT Group. I give John highest recommendations for this honor.

Sincerely,

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