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March 12th, 2007

To Whom it May Concern,

This is a formal letter of recommendation for Menko Johnson, attesting to the exemplary service and assistance he has provided to me as an instructional designer in the Incubator Classroom at San Jose State University.

I have been working as a college-level art instructor since 1993. Working at three different major universities over the last 14 years, I have worked with dozens of support personnel. Of those dozens, very few actually provided tangible assistance to my pedagogical role. In addition to providing very real and practical assistance both technologically and pedagogically, Menko Johnson is—by far—the most competent, prepared, thorough, and dependable staff person I have ever worked with in my teaching career.

I do not state this lightly. In the two semesters I have been working with him, I have come to trust, and depend on, his knowledge, abilities, candid opinions, and judgment.

In our collaborative work in the Incubator Classroom—an experimental instructional space designed to encourage innovative approaches through the use of technology—he has consistently improved my class by contributing intelligent and thoughtful ideas to my class structure, and showcased intelligent uses of technology I never would have imagined without his input. He uses technology wisely; he isn't applying technology to every problem, he is applying technology where it can be truly *useful*.

Beyond his technical competence and thoughtful suggestions, he is consistently eager to help me realize new ideas, investigate others, and solve the inevitable problems that arise with any novel approach. He is a rare commodity in the bureaucracy of a large institution, he seems to welcome new ideas and approaches rather than work to avoid them. I know I speak for several faculty when I say I consider him to be an invaluable asset to my Incubator class, and to SJSU as well.

My only regret regarding Menko is that I am unable to steal him away from the Clark Success Center to our own department in Art & Design, where I could work with him on a more regular basis.

Please contact me if you have any further questions, 925-371-2527.

Sincerely,

John Clapp
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