

October 16, 2014

Dean Michael Stepniak Shenandoah Conservatory 1460 University Drive Winchester, VA 22601

Dear Dean Stepniak,

Adam Olson has asked me to write a letter of recommendation on his behalf and I am most happy to do so. Adam is an incredibly positive addition to our Shenandoah family, both committed to bringing his students the cutting edge of what his industry is offering and creating a nurturing environment for their development.

Over the last two and half years I have worked and collaborated with Adam on numerous occasions, including curriculum development where our programs and student skillsets overlap. But perhaps my most engaging experience with Adam revolves around the Holiday Galas where he has been a key member to their success. Adam always has a can-do attitude, which is probably why if he is not in class, he can be found diligently working in his office at all hours of the day. When collaborating with colleagues, he always looks for the solution and never shirks from committing his own time and effort to the resolution, even if it demands broadening his own knowledge base. This commitment to self-growth is essential in a program like MPRT because the world of its technology is constantly growing and changing.

Adam strives to keep abreast of his field and to personally participate in experiences within his profession. During his sabbatical, I watched him fight to find ways into the film industry in order to bring the knowledge and experience from that exposure back to his students. He is a faculty member whose insight into industry is only going to grow exponentially over the years because he is so obviously an individual that does not settle for mediocrity in himself or what he delivers his students. He is the kind of person that I want on my team.

Sincerel LA Ruscella

Director of Acting Chair Theatre Division Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University