



Divine Savior Holy Angels High School

Dear Hiring Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Michael Stoddard for employment at your organization. As the Academic Dean at DSHA, I worked with Michael for 5 years and have not only supervised Michael, but have co-taught Playwriting I with him. Michael's high level of professionalism, his collaboration, creativity and commitment to his students, colleagues and our institution is inspiring. Additionally, Michael is not only an excellent teacher, but a gifted performer: really, the total package! He motivates his students to take risks in their learning and encourages and supports them along the way. He maintains a high degree of responsibility, initiative and intellectual inquiry, and is a person who seeks out innovation to supplement his teaching and his own professional and personal growth. Michael is a valued member of our community and is sought out by colleagues and those in the Milwaukee community alike. He is respected for his creative ideas, professional input and level of expertise in everything from acting to directing to writing to stage design.

The gifts Michael Stoddard possesses are just what every successful institution needs: flexibility & adaptability; initiative & self-direction; strong interpersonal & cross-cultural skills; productivity & accountability, and leadership & responsibility. Michael is positive and hands-on, always willing to pitch in and always with a happy energy.

Michael is consistently interested in expanding his own knowledge base and will seek out opportunities to do so. He has built the DSHA Theatre program to become one of the most revered, award-winning programs in the state. He serves on and participates in several community theater projects, vocal ensembles and volunteer organizations. In many ways, he has put DSHA theater on the map in the state; he is visionary and passionate, and his success has much to do with his strong interpersonal style and his ability to make people feel included, important and innovative in their own right. And although this may get overlooked in some recommendation letters, I have to say that Michael is also great fun to work with! He is positive and naturally funny.

His collaboration is another strength: Michael supports colleagues in their departments, and readily partners with administration, parents or other staff when an opportunity to advance the institution arises. He is a reliable leader and facilitator who is willing to commit time and energy to the betterment of the institution as a whole, and for the richness of the experience for everyone.

Finally, in the years I have worked with Michael, I have witnessed his steadfast commitment to innovation and quick assimilation of new technologies and methods; he can learn quickly and adapt quickly. Indeed, he is an energetic and positive person, and his natural working style is to be a positive and productive member of any committee or team he is working with. Michael's good judgment and integrity ensure a responsible, ethical approach to every situation. He is an asset to any organization, and I am very happy to give him my highest recommendation and endorsement. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Many thanks!

Best regards,

Heather Moran Mansfield, Ph.D.
Academic Dean
Divine Savior Holy Angels High School—*DSHA*
4257 N. 100th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222
Direct line: 414.616.2818