

March 10, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I feel privileged to write this letter on behalf of John Sharp.

John has been my student since he began his Masters of Art Teaching at Columbia College Chicago, so I am abundantly qualified to write about his talents and development as a teacher.

John came to us an immensely talented artist and an individual who worked with developmentally disabled adults at a not-for-profit organization. Instantly, his modesty and patient demeanor was recognizable and I knew his kindness would be an asset. His intelligence and steadfast commitment to task were the second revelation and I quickly believed he was “the whole package.”

If my praise seems reserved, it is only because it is hard to find the words. In my long experience teaching, mentoring, and supervising teachers, I have rarely known one in which I had greater confidence. His planning is impeccable; he is focused on learning objectives and seamlessly imparts them. His students feel empowered by his overall lesson design and by gentle, individual support. His colleagues find him affable and eager to accept critique and direction, always desirous of improving his performance in the classroom.

As a retired teacher, high school administrator, and college professor, I am often asked to recommend new teachers. John is so exceptional that I not only give him my highest praise, but I strongly urge that you don't overlook the opportunity to make him a part of your team. I assure you he will be an enhancement to your program and – more importantly – one of those teachers that students will always think of as unforgettable.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Gold, professor
MAT Program
Columbia College Chicago