

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Language Media Center

120 Phillips Hall Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1323 319-335-2331 Fax 319-335-2990

Date:

February 29, 2016

Re:

Letter of Recommendation for Gregory P. Johnson

From:

Becky Bohde, Interim Director, Language Media Center,

The University of Iowa

Contact: rebecca-bohde@uiowa.edu; 319-335-2334 (until June 30, 2016)

To Whom it May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation for Gregory P. Johnson. I am writing as the Interim Director of the Language Media Center (LMC) of the University of Iowa where Greg worked a number of years.

I first met Greg in 2001 when I was a Program Associate at the LMC. We were searching for a new Computing Consultant to work in the LMC, and I was on the search committee along with our Director and my other colleague, also a Program Associate. After he interviewed and was hired for our position, we worked together as colleagues in the LMC until 2013, when Greg moved to an Information Technology position in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University. His new position was, however, still closely associated with the LMC, and Greg had his office in our facility until December 2015, when he left the University of Iowa.

During the time he worked for the LMC as a Computing Consultant his duties included special concentration on our two main software packages, Fourth Dimension for our lending library database and Sanako Lab 100 for our two audio laboratory classrooms. For most of the time he worked here, he was the only specialist on campus for these packages. Greg also took care of our LMC facility computers, generally up to twenty at any one time. This meant support from the initial research before buying to actually setting up in place and networking; Greg was involved in all phases. The LMC's Multimedia and Development Studio is a highlight of his computer support work. It consists of high-end Macintosh and Dell computers used for the development of multimedia teaching projects with a variety of software. Greg did all the installations there from its inception in 2001 until the fall of 2015. Besides taking care of LMC computers, Greg also did troubleshooting for the fifty computers in the Instructional Technology Center, one of about thirty ITCs run by Information Technology Services on campus, housed in our facility. When we initiated a loaner program in 2006 of used computers and laptops for graduate students in the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures (DWLLC), of which the LMC is now a part, Greg was responsible for preparing and troubleshooting the computers. That program handled up to fifty or more computers at any one time.

Greg has a wide variety of interests in his professional sphere and in his private life, including such varied activities as keeping up to date and consulting about technology as a whole, language learning in general, working with all aspects of video, advocating for recycling, and doing a great deal of volunteer work. One quite interesting project involving tiny houses and downsizing one's footprint on earth led to him write a book. His extensive computer knowledge and capable teaching skills make him a very patient and understanding consultant for people who may not be so comfortable with computers. As video presentations and recordings have become more important in teaching and communications, Greg has done a great deal of advising and editing with video projects and produced valuable contributions to web pages and research in the DWLLC. He has travelled widely and been interested in many languages over the years, including Spanish, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindi, and American Sign Language (ASL). For example, after beginning work at the LMC, he became interested in and then proficient in ASL, which was a very valuable skill for the LMC, considering that we have a large number of ASL instructors and students as customers. He donates his computer expertise to church groups and to other charitable purposes in the area, and he has been a staunch advocate for recycling here at the University of Iowa.

In the time I have known Greg, he has always been a competent, helpful, resourceful, and thoroughly pleasant co-worker. He has shown interest in our constituent group of users, the faculty, staff, and students in the DWLLC, and he has always been willing to go an extra mile to help with projects and programs. Greg has been unfailingly generous with his expertise. I am happy to give him my recommendation for any position he seeks. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Bechy Bohde