

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

June 7, 2022

To whom it may concern:

I write on behalf of Dan Shields and my estimation of him as a colleague and professional. I am currently a faculty member and the Director of Beyond120 at the University of Florida, where I have worked closely with Dan for over six years. During that time, I have come to immensely value Dan both for the quality of his work and the quality of his character. I am confident that Dan will make a tremendous and meaningful contribution to any workplace or professional environment he is part of.

In his role as the lead IT Analyst and Web Developer for the Academic Advising Center, Dan has been instrumental in the growth of the center and its various programs. As a program director, I am constantly managing changes to communications and web presence and working with Dan on this is consistently wonderful. Dan is unbelievably timely and precise with his work. There are times when I send him material for the website and it's been done within minutes. For a program where things change quickly, his speed is a tremendous asset to us and his timeliness comes with no sacrifice in quality.

More important even than the speed of Dan's work is how accessible he is interpersonally. As someone who does not know much about web design, I do not always know exactly how to articulate what I want for the website. Dan's warm personality makes it very comfortable for me and my colleagues to approach him with half-formed ideas because we know that he will be completely welcoming and understanding and help us further develop our ideas into an ultimately excellent work product.

Lastly and most importantly, Dan is a wonderful human being. I worked with him very closely during the pandemic, when crucial changes to the web presence felt like an almost hourly occurrence. His work was excellent, of course, but what I will remember from that period are the wonderful conversations we had that did not always center completely on work. In a time of doubt and stress, Dan was a meaningful source of human connection for me, and it is something I won't forget. For these reasons and many others, if you have the opportunity to work with Dan Shields – take it.

Sincerely,



Ryan Braun

Director, Beyond120 Program

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