



Shasta College

Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District
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6 February 2007

Dear members of the selection committee,

This letter is in warm recommendation of my student, Robert Wilson. Robert was a student in a composition/critical thinking course I taught online in spring 2006. We have since kept in close touch, and I have had the opportunity to really appreciate both his personal and academic strengths. I can give Robert a very strong recommendation.

Robert is a re-entry student who after thirteen years working as a cardiovascular technician has decided to return to school to become a nurse practitioner. In my class he showed himself to be a mature, capable student who was fully up to the task. He easily earned an A grade in the course, and this was by no means easy. Online classes require a special kind of dedication, organizational ability, and attention to detail, not to mention very good computer skills. Robert was up to this and never lagged behind. In fact, he often kept me on my toes; he was always one of the first in class to spot errors in how the course management system was functioning or to see where there was some course inconsistency. I valued his "troubleshooting" capabilities and commitment to the class. I have found that in general, students have to have a certain maturity level to succeed in online classes. Robert has that and more.

Since Robert finished my class we have worked closely together. Robert is the Student Senate President and I serve as the Academic Senate President. This means we go to College Council meetings together and sit next to each other during the Board meetings. Robert strikes me as immensely competent in this capacity and very inclusive too. He has shown himself to be articulate at Board meetings, sharp as a whip, and absolutely committed to representing the students.

To me, Robert's work with the Student Senate fits in with his career plans. As a cardiovascular technician, Robert rose to a supervisory position, but he eventually moved out of it because he hates doing management work. He

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wants to work more one-on-one with people, and being Student Senate President has allowed him to do this. I have appreciated watching Robert's gentle approach in guiding and leading some of his colleagues on the Senate. Several times he has approached the Board to introduce various officers, to promote student projects, or simply to get others involved in the shared governance process. He has a very nurturing nature, and while capable of being a great leader, he's also capable of that one-on-one work he'll have to do as a nurse practitioner.

Perhaps that ability grows out of his experience as a parent. Robert and his wife Teresa (who has also taken my class) have three girls – ages 5, 7, and 16. Both Robert and Teresa are now full-time students, working odd jobs here and there to pay the bills, but still finding time to raise their kids. On top of this, they both have a long track record of service to the community and to the school. Robert's Student Senate service I've already mentioned, but his wife is one of the editors for The Lance, and Robert served for many years as his church's Senior High Pastor. I'm amazed at how Robert does everything he does, but he does it, and he's maintained a high GPA (just under 3.6) despite it all.

Robert, in short, is a solid student and an exceedingly well-adjusted kind of person—a balance of thorough capability and of a desire to excel. Again, I give Robert Wilson a strong recommendation. He inspires confidence in his character and abilities, and I have no doubt he will do well for himself. I know that as a re-entry student and as a parent of three, Robert can really use any scholarship help that we can give him. He's certainly shown he is deserving. Thank you for giving his application your closest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Frank Nigro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Frank Nigro

English Instructor
Shasta College