

August 2, 2011

To whom it may concern:

I write to express my extraordinarily high regard for **Paul Giglio**, a recent graduate of the College at Brockport who approaches all of his professional roles with intelligence, enthusiasm, and a radiant spirit of service. His faculty and fellow students at Brockport have benefitted immensely from having him in our academic community.

I first got to know Paul when he was a first-semester student in a writing unit I teach for the Delta College program, Brockport's demanding interdisciplinary option for meeting general education requirements. It was immediately clear that Paul possessed high academic goals and the considerable intellect to achieve them. Already a gifted and disciplined writer, he nonetheless readily embraced the opportunity to receive feedback and continue honing his style. He was always willing to take a fresh, incisive look at how to best use paragraph and sentence structure, while many other highly skilled students considered them remedial and uninteresting questions. Paul's self-driven desire to improve benefitted not only his writing, but also the class as a whole. Weak and strong writers alike found themselves sharing much of Paul's enthusiasm, creating a more successful learning experience for all of us.

As Paul continued in the program, it became clear that his academic ambitions were matched by a thorough-going professionalism that he brought to all the leadership roles he played at Brockport. While I was not lucky enough to have him in one of my later courses, it was easy to keep track of his achievements through Delta College symposia, the student newspaper, and the overheard praise of others who had seen him in action as a Resident Assistant, Delta Mentor, member of significant campus committees, and leader within student government. He invariably exceeds expectations, constantly thinking about the needs of others and the organizational processes that will best meet them.

Of all his accomplishments, the one that stands out in my mind is his role in leading the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, which is emblematic of Paul's remarkable confluence of qualities. He not only convinced 120 people to plunge themselves into the frigid winter waters of Lake Ontario, he made sure everyone had a wonderful time doing it and helped everyone translate their own enthusiasm into a remarkably successful fundraising process that broke records and won a free rock concert for students at Brockport. This episode reveals his intelligence and skill but also how they are always directed toward improving conditions for others.

One could be stuck in an airport with Paul for 16 hours, conversing enjoyably the entire time, and still never learn of his remarkable accomplishments. His intelligence and personable nature would be obvious, and you may learn that he enjoys playing the piano, has traveled to London and China, and perhaps that he is a recent college graduate who majored in business. You would not learn that he won (among several awards) the most prestigious honor conferred on undergraduates across the entire SUNY system encompassing over 465,000 students on 64 campuses. What I find most remarkable about Paul is that his incandescent ambition is fully matched by a pragmatic modesty; he measures his achievements in terms of his ability to serve others, not the glory he receives. Any business or academic institution would be lucky to have a person of such accomplished integrity within its organization.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be helpful in sharing more about my experience working with Paul. I can be reached at [aguptill@brockport.edu](mailto:aguptill@brockport.edu) or (585) 395-5657.

Sincerely,

Amy Guptill, PhD