

21 May 2020

To whom it may concern:

I first met Chad Henwood in the Spring Semester of 2018 at Southern Utah University (SUU). He has enrolled in several of my courses including, Theatre History 1, Script Analysis, Dramatic Literature, Dramaturgy, and Capstone. Chad is a wonderfully bright and curious student who takes his education very seriously and wants to get as much out of it as possible. He was a student who, at minimum, never appeared concerned with the grade, but rather was interested in learning new material, techniques, and skills. His energy was always geared towards self-improvement in every facet of his life and was a student who would frequent my office hours to catch up on ideas missed in class, expand on concepts, discuss future plans, or just share space. In this way Chad is an excellent communicator who was always willing to engage in creative thinking and exploration. This made him an ideal research assistant as I was working on a project tracking professional directors across the United States. Not only was he an effective researcher, his work, when compared to my other student researchers, was easily in the top 5% and his assistance on this project was invaluable. Based on this experience, I can say with certainty that he would make an outstanding employee in any area. His attention to detail, ability to communicate, and desire to grow is exceptional.

Chad was also extremely involved with the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. He performed in multiple mainstage productions, served on the board of Second Studio (our student produced theatre company), earned a fellowship with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, and was awarded a black box grant to explore a show filled with themes and ideas of immediate relevance to our student body. In fact, as a performer, Chad ranks as one of the most improved performers I've seen during my time in higher education. In his final year at SUU, he performed the role of Volumnia in Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, which I directed. I have never had a more diligent, patient, exacting, and present actor in any of my work. His work ethic was outstanding, and he never became satisfied or comfortable in his performance. Every rehearsal he came with new work to present and share, took criticism with aplomb and a growth mindset, and served as an excellent example to his peers. He accomplished all of this while also serving as Fight Captain for the production, which entailed a high level of responsibility in making sure that fight choreography maintained safety and accuracy. His ability to grow, adapt, and improve in anything he engages with is one of his greatest strengths. His administrative and organizational skills are also of a very high quality. As the advisor for Second Studio, I had the opportunity of watching Chad operate within a group as the Managing Director for the organization. His duties included managing the company's financials, assisting with purchasing, and generally helping in many other duties as needed. Chad is a calming force within a group. He often exudes confidence, but also has a demeanor that makes everyone around him feel respected and cared for. This makes him a strong collaborator as he often knows when to take charge and when to step back and let others contribute. Chad is highly responsible,

caring, careful, and detail orientated while also approaching each task with an eye towards learning and growth. Because of this I know that any task, job, project that Chad takes on will be done at a high level.

In addition to his high academic achievement, Chad is kind and generous with his time and ability. He is a person that is wonderful to have in class, rehearsals, or in a meeting. He is highly inclusive of others and is the kind of person that builds a culture of mutual respect, trust, and kindness. In short, he is a person you want to have in the room. A person who finds solutions while asking the right questions. A person who dedicates himself above and beyond what is called for to achieve excellence. He expects excellence from those around him and is always willing to help them achieve. Chad, I feel, is just starting to come out of his shell, if he has a weakness it is only that he sometimes allows others more space and generosity than they deserve. This is something I would never change about Chad, because it speaks to one of his greatest qualities: a creator of space for others. With that said, when Chad is called on to take space, leadership, or an opportunity, he absolutely delivers. More than any of this, I would add that Chad has become a true friend over the years and one that I very much hope to follow as he continues his career trajectory. One in which I would leap at the chance to work with again. One that I believe has become a peer.

It is for all the above reasons that I highly recommend Chad Henwood. You will not be disappointed in what your organization gains from having Chad as a collaborator, nor should you be surprised at the growth and development of this remarkable person as he expands his skills and abilities while at your organization. If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Knowles".

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