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Subject: Recommendation for Rod Keller

I served as a Teacher's Assistant (TA) to Brother Keller in the Fall 2011 semester and was his student three consecutive semesters previous to the position, and I have come to know this man very well.

As a TA for Brother Keller, I spent a semester outlining and creating case studies out of the Marine's 14 guiding attributes of leadership. Brother Keller presented these lessons to the class, fostering and encouraging the application of these traits into each student's personal life. I found this approach innovative and refreshing. The qualities we discussed coincided with the purpose of BYU-Idaho in creating disciples of Jesus Christ. It was a new way to understand the leadership training we receive at this university. With encouragement from Brother Keller, I spent hours working on each trait, striving to understand it perfectly and then prayerfully developed case studies with examples that might be applicable to students.

This extensive project was the center of most of my conversations with Brother Keller. As we brought these lesson plans into the classroom, I witnessed a desire in students to apply these qualities into their lives as Disciples of Christ. The project proved productive as students responded so well.

The 14 traits listed below help were structured to help Marines earn the respect, confidence, loyalty, and cooperation of other Marines. This is something that would benefit us as members of the church. As someone who spent long hours studying these traits and striving to understand their comprehensive meaning, I search them out in individuals I meet and find them readily and abundantly in Rod Keller.

Justice: He is fair and consistent. True justice understands mercy. Brother Keller never lets a student off the hook for an assignment, but recognizes the mishaps of life and works with students to complete the assignment rather than marking an easy zero in the gradebook.

Judgment: I have witnessed him make tight decisions with ease. During classes Brother Keller uses comments and insights from students to expand discussions. These discussions often turn into student- teaching-student opportunities.

Dependability: Brother Keller always came to class prepared, his lessons never felt 'off the cuff,' but were deliberate in their purpose and presentation. He constantly adapts and changes his

curriculum. He realizes the importance of BYU-Idaho students being competitive in the job market and makes sure they are prepared with what employers seek.

Initiative: He is always mentally and physically alert. He takes the energy to create a classroom environment where the spirit can be present and where students will feel comfortable teaching one another.

Decisiveness: Brother Keller takes the skills of his students and empowers them. He has the ability to see people for what they can become and then immediately creates an atmosphere that can foster development. Because he is alert and attentive, he helps students succeed.

Tact: Brother Keller is courteous and cheerful. He sees more than a GPA or a reputation; he values students as God does, and treats them accordingly. Brother Keller has never degraded an individual or talked poorly about one. He lifts and gives hope to all those around him.

Integrity: I have never heard Brother Keller speak ill of anyone whether in public or private; he is the same man in both places. I have seen his consistent optimism, unselfishness, and morals in front of the class, and alone in his office as we worked.

Enthusiasm: He consistently displays sincere interest in the performance of his duties as a teacher and mentor. He never grumbles or makes you feel rushed when you come to him with a question. He is optimistic with each student and cheerful under stressful circumstances and challenges.

Bearing: In the classroom, Brother Keller reflects alertness, competence, confidence, and control. He carries himself with respect and students easily and willingly recognize him as someone worth following. Most importantly, you can see he bears the name of Christ, he is humble in demeanor which brings students to appreciate their opportunity to learn.

Unselfishness: Brother Keller is in his office from sun up to sun down serving students. Whether writing letters of recommendations for students or preparing classes, his open door policy allows students to come in when they need help, not when it is most convenient for Brother Keller.

Courage: Brother Keller never fails to stand up for what was right. If a certain student interjects angry remarks aimed at the University, another student, or the Church, Brother Keller will immediately stand up and rectify the situation.

Knowledge: Brother Keller subscribes to Harvard Business Review, prestigious and up to date literary magazines and peer review journals. He constantly applies the newest, most sound techniques and ideas in his classes.

Loyalty: There is no one more loyal to God, country, the University, and its students than Rod Keller. He testifies of truthfulness of the gospel, his testimony of the unique mission of BYU-Idaho and its inspired direction.

Endurance: There is nothing more boring than a teacher's "fail proof" curriculum that he has used for the last 30 years. Brother Keller still reads more books, subscribes to more journals, and gives more presentations than many of us students hope to do in a lifetime. He has made a habit of learning and teaching.

If a Marine is someone who has the above traits then Keller is a Marine. He is true to himself and to those he represents and guides. Above all, he has made these his personal virtues. If the Marines will go to great sacrifices to preserve these traits and freedoms, then we should likewise do our part to in recognizing these attributes in a man who magnifies them all. Our campus needs more teachers like Brother Keller.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Brassell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Brassell