

October 7, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in recommendation of Elizabeth Caplan. I have known her since the fall of 1997 when I became French TA Supervisor at USF. Elizabeth was a German TA but since I also knew German and she had no supervisor, she unofficially consulted with me on teaching techniques. I learned as much from her as she learned from me. Lizz is an excellent teacher. She is innovative, creative, enthusiastic, and caring. She is an expert at explaining the intricacies of the German language to students. She not only created impressive new materials for her German classes both on the web and using traditional teaching materials, but she pushed her knowledge of instructional technology to the point of structuring her own learning of the French language through internet research. She didn't hesitate to visit advisors in several departments across the university to discuss the advantages of learning German for students in the different disciplines. She significantly increased enrollment in our German classes. Lizz won the Provost's Award for Excellent Teaching by a Graduate Student in 1998. She then became the voluntary webmaster for the entire department, helping develop web resources for any interested faculty in any language. Since, for a number of factors, we experienced a vacuum in the German leadership in the division, Lizz, reluctantly (because she has great respect for territorial rights), became de facto German TA and adjunct supervisor, simply because everyone recognized her enormous ability. She gave advice on hiring other TAs and helped to structure the lower-level German curriculum.

I highly recommend Lizz Caplan as an exceptionally well-qualified professional in language instruction.

Sincerely,

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