April 24, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to recommend Jeff Minge for employment consideration. Jeff was my student in two courses, English 234 (Early Twentieth Century American Literature) and English 300 (Senior Seminar in English). In both classes Jeffrey was a productive contributor to class discussions. He has a close eye for details that many readers would overlook, and his characteristic attitude toward any topic—perhaps even toward life in general—seems to be a healthy (but good-natured) skepticism. In English 234, he wrote interesting papers on John Dos Passos' novel, *The Big Money* and on the questioning of values in social and human relationships in modern poetry by writers like Robert Frost and Marianne Moore. One of the requirements for English 300 is a portfolio in which the student includes writing from throughout his/her college career. So, I have seen papers from Jeff's courses at Heartland Community College and Illinois State University, and they are all characterized by solid critical thinking, a good sense of audience, a confident control of structure and organization, and, above all, a self-effacing and sardonic wit.

From my experience I can say that Jeff is a conscientious and responsible person, he has good interpersonal skills and can work independently or as part of a team. He is well-prepared and capable. I recommend him enthusiastically and without reservations.

Sincerely,

Ron Strickland
Professor of English