

April 2, 2014

I had the pleasure of working with Darryl for more than three years at New England Culinary Institute (NECI) in Montpelier, Vermont. As a Faculty Development Coordinator, I worked alongside Darryl helping to develop curriculum, engage students in learning about current issues in food culture and organizing community outreach.

During the time that I worked with Darryl, I was routinely impressed by the breadth and depth of his knowledge of current food issues, his passion for promoting sustainable food culture and his ability to impart complex curriculum topics to his students in an unassuming and engaging manner. In addition, his extensive background in marketing and professional writing gave him a unique perspective that helped students to understand brand strategy, company mission and sustainability. These qualities, among his many attributes, helped to earn him school-wide recognition, Core Faculty status and the honor of NECI's *Creative Teaching* award in 2010 — no small feats among a decorated culinary faculty.

Beyond the classroom impact that Darryl has had on hundreds of culinary students and food industry professionals, his deeply held tenets of promoting awareness of GMO issues and Farm-to-Table cuisine have helped to enrich the conversation around sustainable food culture in the state of Vermont.

It was my pleasure to work with, mentor — and to be mentored by — Darryl during my time at NECI. I am lucky to have been able to learn from his expertise and to see him engaged in meaningful dialogue with current and future food professionals. In addition, I believe that he will be a tremendous addition to your wonderful organization — both because he believes deeply in your mission and because he has the skills to continue to move it forward. As a leader of your marketing efforts, Darryl will embrace the role while staying true to the beliefs that have allowed him to make such an impact on those who have worked with him — a personal commitment to the importance of healthy food systems; a consummate educational approach which focuses on community involvement around social issues; and a personality which employs a witty sense of humor to foster group engagement.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information about my experiences in working with Darryl at NECI or with questions on the information that I have provided here. I would be happy to elaborate or to share more specifics on his demeanor and skill set.

Sincerely,

David Garaventa  
Instructional Technologist  
Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT  
(203) 999-3533  
dgaraventa@gmail.com