



The Vermont Cheese Council
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April 4, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter for Darryl Benjamin, a former colleague of mine at New England Culinary Institute. In my capacity as executive chef at the Institute, I was able to view Darryl in a variety of roles at the school.

He was very well respected amongst his peers for his teaching abilities and often served as a sounding board for any written project or marketing proposal. As a member of both the technical educational staff and the Bachelor's program, he worked with diverse learning styles and capabilities. Even students who were not proficient writers in the beginning of his classes were much more articulate and thoughtful about writing after leaving his classes. His work with the school's quarterly press featuring student writing was amazing. I believe that he was an excellent instructor and mentor to the students and staff.

Darryl possesses all the skills that help keep businesses running smoothly. He manages work time well, completes assignments within deadlines, and is well-suited to working in collaboration with others. He asks insightful questions that get at the heart of an issue or project. He isn't one for wasting time and instills an appropriate sense of urgency to the projects and issues that he is working on. He makes every effort to accommodate the needs of all constituencies without compromising his values or integrity. He can be flexible, but still manages to get where he needs to go within his timeline.

Above all that, Darryl is a decent, kind and genuine individual. He is thoughtful and empathetic. He works well with all sorts of people, and looks for common ground and common values to work from. I found Darryl to be a great member of the team, willing to work with anyone for the common good. He is very funny in a dry and unexpected way. I found him to be a pleasure to work with, an excellent dining companion, and someone whose work I could admire.

If I can be of any assistance or answers any questions regarding Darryl Benjamin, please do not hesitate to call me at the number listed above or email me at tom@vtcheese.com.

Best regards,

Tom Bivins
Executive Director

The Vermont Cheese Council is dedicated to the production
and advancement of Vermont Cheese.