



October 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Danny Ledonne, with whom I had the pleasure of working for several years at Adams State University. I hired him in 2011 specifically to create a video editing and production program — something our mass communication major sorely lacked at the time — and I am happy to say that he delivered on that charge very well. Our video program is now a popular option for the major and an important recruitment tool for the department. In fact the program has become a vital presence on campus, serving not just the mass communication program but also music, theatre, athletics, and other programs, as well as the local community (e.g., through its collaboration with the Southern Colorado Film Festival, which Mr. Ledonne helped to found).

To his work as both a teacher and program creator, Mr. Ledonne brought an uncommon mix of academic preparation and professional experience. He has a BA in visual arts (with an emphasis in film) and an MFA in film and electronic media. His professional experience ranges from producing media content for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to successfully managing his own production company. He has extensive experience in writing, shooting, and editing in a variety of video forms. He is himself an accomplished filmmaker who should have no trouble meeting the usual faculty expectations concerning scholarly/creative activity. He is a strong writer and speaker who can articulate complex ideas and processes clearly. He has strong organizational skills and a formidable work ethic.

Adams State is a designated Hispanic Serving Institution, and Mr. Ledonne proved himself effective in teaching our very diverse student body. As department chair, I observed and evaluated many of his courses and consistently found them to be well designed and well received by students. I was impressed by his understanding of the broader pedagogical potentials of filmmaking, which when properly taught can help students engage with the most difficult issues confronting them while also developing their skills in writing, visual thinking, narrative design, project planning and organization, creativity, leadership, and peer collaboration. He understands that video production work can be project-based learning of a high order, and he brings this understanding to bear on his teaching.

Everything I know about Mr. Ledonne leads me to believe he would prove an asset to your students, department, campus, and community. I recommend him to you enthusiastically.

Sincerely,



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Professor Emeritus of English

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