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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of **Chris Lyons** who has applied for a music teaching position in your school district. I enjoy telling his story because it represents one of determination and success. I have known CJ since Spring 2004 when he auditioned at IUP. I was not able to accept him into my program at that time because his skill level was just not developed enough. He came to IUP in Fall 2004 as an undeclared major and had a very poor first academic semester. Something must have clicked because when he re-auditioned in Spring 2005, he was a different player completely. I accepted him into the studio and he began the tough road of academic recovery with incredible focus. His GPA rose steadily as did his talent level. I am proud that he reached his goals, has successfully completed student teaching, and has graduated May 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education.

CJ has grown into a fine performer, participating in Wind Ensemble, Drumline, Steel Band, and Percussion Ensemble including our performance at PASIC 2007. I also selected him to be featured by performing the solo marimba part of "Rite of Passage" by Jesse Monkman when the IUP PE performed at Heinz Hall, home of the Pittsburgh Symphony. CJ is very reliable, a quick learner, and easy to coach. I place a great quantity of a material in front each of my students. He handled all of it with a great deal of quality and then pursued extra opportunities such as choosing to present a full non-required recital. His leadership contributions have been considerable both within the studio, the IUP drumline, and on the percussion staff of the Gateway High School Indoor Drumline, which was featured at the PAS/PA Chapter "Day of Percussion" in 2007. He put his percussion writing skills to work with both Saegertown High School and IUP drumlines.

Please give CJ Lyons your highest consideration for employment. I believe that CJ has the talent and work ethic to contribute to your program at a very high level. I hope you find these comments helpful. If I may be of service in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael G. Kingan
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Director of Percussion Studies, IUP
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