

Juliette M. Dunn

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Re: Aaron Stephenson

I have known Aaron Stephenson since August of 2021, when I joined the faculty at Worcester Academy. Over the past two years, Aaron has demonstrated collegiality and kindness, and has been an invaluable source of teaching inspiration.

As a new faculty member, I had much to learn about the school and it was Aaron who stepped in to provide guidance. He quickly became my de facto mentor, as my actual mentor and department chair was rarely in our building. Aaron helped me figure out the complexities of the school's learning platform, he gave me tips on comment-writing, he introduced me to people around the school, and he always responded to my requests with patience and clarity.

It did not take long for me to observe that Aaron's approach to language teaching is innovative and student-centered. His students create videos and podcasts, they visit the Worcester Art Museum to find works by Spanish-speaking artists, and they watch soccer matches at a local Salvadoran restaurant. He is the only other teacher in our department who follows a proficiency-based model, so we regularly exchange ideas about creative activities and assessments. For his Spanish IV/V class, students choose a Spanish-speaking country and then research various cultural aspects to share with the class throughout the year. Aaron has graciously provided me with materials to help me create a similar project for my French IV/V class. Whenever I have a pedagogical question, I know that I can rely on Aaron for truthful and insightful feedback.

It is with great professional respect and personal pleasure that I recommend Aaron Stephenson for a position as a Spanish instructor. Please contact me if I can provide further assistance. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Juliette M. Dunn, PhD