



Dr. Michele Ren
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Radford, VA 24142

April 17, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to recommend Jordan Addison for an English teacher position. I served as Jordan's senior thesis advisor in the fall of 2015 and I co-presented Safe Zone trainings at Radford University with him for four years. As a writer and researcher, Jordan is thoughtful, clear, and credible. As a teacher and facilitator, he is engaging and encouraging. And, as a colleague, he is congenial and collegial.

Jordan and I both started our work with the Safe Zone committee at Radford University in the fall of 2011 when it moved out from the auspices of residential life and into the hands of the larger community. While he was a freshman and I was faculty, we both came to the work, a completely volunteer enterprise, with a desire to both learn and teach how to make our university a safer space for its LGBTQ+ students, staff, and faculty. Throughout his time at Radford, Jordan and I presented together at least twice per year, for groups ranging from ten to fifty. By the time he left RU, Jordan had trained faculty, staff, administrators, college students, high school students, resident assistants, the student government association, and more.

After each of these presentations, whether he worked alone or with another member of the Safe Zone committee, Jordan made it a point to read participant feedback and change our materials to reflect new information and experiences of the participants we had trained. He's also made it a point in that time to keep up with best practices in Safe Zone training and on the data from GLSEN that we use when informing our university audiences what the experiences of the LGBTQ students we encounter may have been.

His ability to track data and watch trends, honed over several years of teaching RU's own safe zone training course, informed his work on his senior thesis. Ever determined to continue making sure that the school environment that he finds himself in is a safe space for all (Jordan is also committed to issues of gender and racial justice and has made sure to address those issues in our Safe Zone trainings over the years), he used his required English Senior Seminar paper to look at the existence of, and possibilities for, LGBTQ+ safe spaces in public high schools, and to ultimately argue for the importance of creating and maintaining them.

It was my pleasure to work with Jordan over the years and I have missed our collaboration. But, I enthusiastically recommend him as a teacher, as a scholar, and as a colleague. Like President Theodore Roosevelt High and the Eek School before it, the school that gets Mr. Addison will be lucky to have him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, written in a cursive script. The name 'Michele Ren' is clearly legible, with the first name being more prominent.

Michele Ren