



24 June 2002

To whom it may concern:

This is a general recommendation for **John Hartranft**.

I was acquainted with John from January through March 2003, while he was enrolled in a class I teach at Penn State University. The class is Geography 5121: The Nature of Geographic Information. This is the first in a sequence of four courses that leads to a Certificate of Achievement in Geographic Information Systems from Penn State's Department of Geography. My colleagues and I conduct the courses through the University's on-line World Campus, serving students throughout North America. My course requires students to complete readings and automated quizzes, to participate in asynchronous discussions, and the publish project reports in on-line portfolios.

John's performance in the class was outstanding. Students who succeed in an intensive distance education program like ours necessarily possess determination, self-discipline, computer literacy, the ability to work independently and to ask for help when needed. All these traits prepare John well for graduate study. With this in mind I recommend him without qualification.

Regards,

David DiBiase  
Senior Lecturer