

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

April 10, 2012

Melissa S. Medina, Ed.D. University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Pharmacy 1110 N. Stonewall, PO Box 26901 Oklahoma City, OK 73126

RE: Letter of Reference for Dr. Jerrod Hunter

Dear Search Committee,

It is my pleasure to write this letter for Dr. Jerrod Hunter in support of his application for a faculty position at your university. Hunter is an excellent candidate for this position based on his teaching and research experience and his dedication to participating in faculty development for teaching. I have known Hunter since Fall 2009 through his participation in the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC) Preparing Future Faculty Program (PFF) where I serve as the Director and the course instructor.

Hunter has been committed to continuous quality improvement with his teaching and has participated in the OUHSC Graduate College Preparing Future Faculty fall and spring course to advance his skills. I was impressed with Hunter's baseline skills and watched him grow over the course. What stands out the most with Hunter is his extreme passion for teaching, which became evident early in the course and has continued to evolve over the years. Hunter was an asset to our class discussions and contributed to the growth of his peers as well. I enjoyed his motivation and insights during class. It was exciting to observe him apply course concepts in his own teaching in the spring 2010 semester where he delivered two lectures to undergraduate biology students that I personally observed. He crafted high quality objectives, handouts, slides and activities for the class and the students liked his teaching style. He was most skilled at adapting teaching materials to the students' knowledge base and taking advantage of teachable moments. Overall, he did very well in the PFF and I truly enjoyed working with him.

In addition to the teaching experience he gained in the PFF course, Hunter has also served as an adjunct faculty at three different institutions. Most notable is the teaching he has done at the Oklahoma School for Science and Math where he has been well-received by the students and has advanced his teaching skills. The enthusiasm he has for teaching these students is evidenced by the online course tools he has created for them to augment their learning. It is very exciting to watch him realize his dream to teach students and to see him do it so well. He has been an excellent representative of the PFF program and I am proud of what he has accomplished. I believe the quality of his teaching abilities and his knowledge of classroom management issues such as creating syllabi, objectives, formative and summative assessments and managing students set him apart from other candidates. He received extensive mentoring and feedback regarding classroom management and I believe he is well-equipped to successfully handle the variety of issues that arise in classroom. I also believe that Hunter is not just able to design and deliver effective lecture material to students (objectives, PowerPoint slides, handouts, activities and test questions) but can also focus on improving student learning from the lectures through his knowledge of active learning strategies.

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In addition to his classroom teaching experience, Hunter has extensive research experience which will serve as an asset as a future educator. His research background will help him educate his future students about new discoveries and the scientific method. His background will also help him effectively conduct laboratory courses and develop his own research program which will involve students in the research process, allowing him to have outreach to his students beyond the traditional classroom setting.

What may not be apparent from this letter is that in addition to his immense enthusiasm for teaching and his teaching skills, Hunter is one of the kindest people I have ever met, which I think will make him an ideal faculty member in the future. He is friendly, thoughtful, caring, and really just a pleasure to work with. His strengths are his motivation, commitment, responsibility, positive attitude, enthusiasm, and his dedication to teach students in the classroom and laboratory. As he has a tendency to not advertise his own merits, I feel that I must leave no doubt in your mind that he would be a great addition to your faculty should he have the privileged opportunity to be offered a faculty position. If you have any questions about Dr. Jerrod Hunter please do not hesitate to contact me at (405) 271-6484 extension 47299.

Sincerely,

Melissa Medina

Melissa S. Medina, Ed.D. Associate Professor Assistant Dean for Assessment and Evaluation University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy Director of Preparing Future Faculty OUHSC Graduate College

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