



March 1, 2014

northern *State* university

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. John Patzlaff has asked that I write a letter of recommendation for his placement file. I am very pleased to do so.

I have known John for many years, going back to his early high school days. He was a participant in the Rushmore Music Camp, sponsored by NSU, and began studying clarinet with me during those years. His talent and hard work resulted in him being selected as a member of the prestigious South Dakota All-State Band.

During his undergraduate years at NSU, John has blossomed into a tremendous and well-rounded musician and student. He is a very accomplished clarinetist, having been selected to perform on the statewide SDMEA collegiate honors recital and as a multiple year member of the South Dakota Intercollegiate Band. Most recently, he served as the principal clarinet in the NSU symphonic band. In addition, he performed as a saxophonist in the top jazz ensemble. Additionally, he participated in the collegiate choir, chamber singers, university-civic symphony, Marching Wolves, and saxophone quartet. He is an outstanding musician and student.

John has an additional talent in composition and arranging, which is a skill that will certainly help him in his future career pursuits as a band and/or choir director.

John Patzlaff has a tremendous work ethic and is highly respected by his peers and colleagues. He served as the President of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and even rose to the coveted rank of Collegiate Province Representative (a national office).

His personality is warm and engaging. He is thoughtful, organized, dependable, and hard working. I believe he has the requisite skill and ability to be highly successful in his chosen field of music education. I am pleased to recommend him most highly for your consideration. I believe he will make a valuable and trusted colleague.

Please feel free to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Alan D. LaFave, Dean
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