



December 16, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this recommendation for Stephen Zanotti, an outstanding teacher with Los Angeles Unified School District. I have known Stephen for several years as a colleague at John Marshall High School when I served as the Community Service and Student Crisis Coordinator. One of the most critical attributes of a great teacher is empathy. Like me, Marshall students sensed this quality in Stephen and he was often the teacher they turned to for help, which is how we initially came into contact.

Stephen carries a passion into the classroom that translates into student enthusiasm and the desire to learn. He gets his students interested in developing their skills and applying them in other classes and in their own personal lives. Stephen's help was also vitally important when the school determined that its teachers needed to move into the information age. He helped with the CTAP training and created a great number of professional development opportunities for Marshall Faculty.

Stephen has consistently been an active partner with faculty members in countless projects. He helped provide faculty training, he conducted student tutoring sessions, expanded department offerings, hosted student organizations, and chaperoned dances. His work ethic is one consistent with an ideal leader.

I am certain that Stephen's participation within UCLA's PLI Cohort will be of great value to all its members. I truly believe that he is a tremendous asset to the teaching profession and an enduring role model for the thousands of his former students.

Sincerely,

Steve Zimmer  
Los Angeles Unified School District  
BOARD OF EDUCATION