

July 20, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to offer my highest recommendation and unqualified support for Ginger Mayerson.

I met Ginger in December of 2012 when we advertised a new position to support our debate program. We had received a substantial grant to help develop digital debate platforms from the Open Society Institute. The additional responsibilities associated with the grant guaranteed that I could no longer manage all of our fiscal and administrative tasks. We looked for someone who could help us navigate the myriad of bureaucratic challenges associated with working for a large research university and to comply with the demands of a large NGO grant-providing organization (The Open Society Institute).

Ginger's application stood out from the large candidate pool for many reasons. She had significant experience at USC's Keck Medical School and was responsible for many aspects of grant-related work. Looking across her resume I was convinced that she could easily adapt to new environments. We interviewed and hired Ginger and I am thrilled that we made such an excellent choice. I knew that there would be unpredictable aspects of the grant work, but having Ginger has made all of the difference in the success of the project.

Ginger has a calm professional demeanor that prevents specific challenges from turning into crises. She has lent her expertise to all aspects of our debate program and we have seen a series of easily identifiable improvements across the board.

One aspect of how Ginger resolves problems is through her combination of strong communication skills and excellent organization. When some of the grant vendors needed to complete difficult tax forms (as required by international organizations) Ginger was able to guide this process to completion. She took the initiative to make sure that both the vendor and the university understood the specific requirements and then she followed up until the matter was resolved. I have seen this pattern repeat itself with the support and maintenance of our website, to the implementation of conferences from the grant and so many other specific tasks.

These experiences remind me that Ginger is a great team member because she is so willing and able to adapt to the needs of the larger team. Not long after she began working with us she realized that the financial systems expertise that she was providing for the grant would also improve our broader fiscal accounting. In no short order, she was able to dramatically improve both our financial records and our overall performance. She didn't need to offer such assistance, but once you get to know her you will realize that she matches a strong sense of teamwork with very strong technical skills.

Our experience with the Open Society grant has been very rewarding and Ginger's work is a big part of the project's success. The grant and our entire debate program is functioning is better managed than at any time in my twelve years at USC. If the project were ongoing there would be no question about our interest in retaining Ginger. If anything, I would be looking for ways to expand her title and responsibilities so that she could further improve our programming. Unfortunately, the fixed schedule for the grant prevents us from continuing to work with Ginger.

I am very pleased that we hired Ginger. She is a pleasure to work with and the results have been fantastic. I strongly recommend that you take the time to meet Ginger and seriously consider her for your open position. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

