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TO: Barbi Honeycutt

FROM: Laurie Williams  
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SUBJECT: Summary of Teaching Experiences for Lucas Layman

As a teaching assistant, Lucas Layman played an integral part of in the effectiveness of the instruction of CSC326 Software Engineering for four years. He most recently was a teaching assistant for the course in Spring 2006. The course is a core class in the computer science curriculum. I am the course coordinator for the class, and I have taught the course every fall for the past six years. However, the instructor for the course has changed each spring semester. Lucas was my teaching assistant two times. But, his more important role has been to help the teachers in the spring semester since they had never taught the course needed help understanding how to teach the course. Lucas played the critical role of not helping the students, but helping the instructor, through the course.

As a teaching assistant in the course, Lucas lead one or two laboratory sections each time he taught the course. In his most recent assignment, Spring 2006, he taught two laboratory sections. The laboratory sections are two hours/week, so in the spring semester Lucas taught approximately 60 hours. At least one per semester, Lucas would teach a lecture for the instructor due to an absence. Additionally, Lucas always volunteered to hold evening review sessions for the midterm and the final exam. Each laboratory section consists of some initial instruction followed by some activities. The instructor of the course would, in conjunction with the teaching assistants, determine what the activities would be. However, Lucas would be responsible for determining what to say during the initial instruction time period. He would decide this based upon the activities of the laboratory, questions asked during office hours the prior week, and confusion detected during lecture.

Lucas' overall performance as a teaching assistant for the class was excellent. He was a valuable partner for the instructor of the course, particularly in the spring semesters when he would almost "take charge" of the course and lead the instructor of the course through the semester. Additionally, Lucas is an excellent presenter and establishes himself with the students as an authority figure but one that is approachable and always willing to help. Additionally, the course is known to be one of the most difficult and time consuming courses in the curriculum. Lucas was as effective as possible at stopping students complains by explaining the value of the learning experience. Lucas was instrumental in the success of the students.

Thank you for your consideration

Laurie Williams