

November 19, 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am happy to have the opportunity to write a letter of reference for **Ken Khalouf**. I have known Ken for the three years I have been a faculty member at Slippery Rock University. Ken was a student in three of my classes, Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, and Exercise Prescription, and I have worked with him on extracurricular activities and research collaborations. In numerous ways, Ken has proven himself to be an outstanding student in the classroom and a dedicated, effective leader on and off campus. His work ethic and motivation to succeed are extraordinary.

Ken's success and seriousness as a student is evidenced by his exceptional grades (GPA 3.8/4.0) while pursuing a rigorous double major in Exercise Science and Physical Education. As much as any student I have ever taught, Ken proved himself in the classroom with his insightful participation which contributed to the learning environment by merging theoretical material into practical application. His ability to make the connection between academic theories and practical application will serve him well as a facilitator of education.

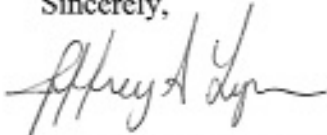
Ken possesses extraordinary leadership skills. As the president of the SRU Exercise Science Society he increased membership by over 200%. He prepared fundraisers that raised record amounts of money. He organized student trips to professional conferences, and he implemented programs that vastly improved the organization. His charisma and enthusiasm created a wave of excitement amongst the organization members. As a teacher, Ken's enthusiasm will motivate students to work hard to achieve success.

Ken worked with me on a student/faculty research collaboration. The research investigated the physiological and psychological changes that occur in amateur bodybuilders preparing for competition. The project was a truly a collegial collaboration, and Ken played meaningful roles in every aspect of the project including a co-presentation at a national conference. His responsible, mature disposition made him seem more like a faculty colleague than a student. He is easily mentored, and displays outstanding potential as an evidence-based learner and teacher.

While maintaining a challenging academic schedule, Ken has amassed remarkable professional experiences as outlined in his resume. In my opinion, the most notable of these was the CHOICES program that he created. Ken researched, developed, and implemented a comprehensive program for overweight children and their parents. His approach was innovative, thorough, and effective. The skills that he used and continues to develop place him far ahead of his peers in many important areas. Indeed, his abilities and professional approach place him ahead of many people with years of experience in the field.

In short, Ken Khalouf is an excellent student, an effective leader, and he is already proving himself to be an outstanding professional in the field. In my eleven years in the field, Ken is certainly in the top 1% of students I have encountered. Given the opportunity, I would hire him to work with me. It is without reservation that I give my full endorsement to Ken's application. If I may provide further information, please call me at (724) 738-2823.

Sincerely,



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