

July 15, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I first had the pleasure of getting to know Scott Hays in my past role as President of Orange Coast College. I continued my acquaintance with him after I retired and began teaching part-time at Saddleback College. Through my discussions about teaching and students with Scott and by observing him interact with faculty and students at both campuses, I am convinced that he is a highly effective teacher and supportive colleague, as well as someone with a strong sense of professionalism and dedication to education.

I am aware that Scott has consistently received positive evaluations and praise from his supervisors and peers at both Orange Coast and Saddleback Colleges. He taught several classes at OCC, been active in the Faculty Senate, and was once particularly helpful by temporarily filling in at mid-semester for another instructor who was ill. As a part-timer at Saddleback, he has also taught a variety of classes, as well as served as the English department's part-time representative to the Faculty Senate and worked with the department chairs to improve scheduling and general support for classroom instructors. In discussions with his colleagues, I have observed that Scott has a solid knowledge of teaching theory as well as practical, first-hand knowledge of students and their needs and abilities. In my own interactions with him, I have been impressed by his passion for teaching and forthrightness in assessing his own strength and weaknesses. He knows what his teaching strengths are and how they can benefit his students, and he also perceives ways he personally wants to improve his abilities in the classroom.

I also know that Scott teaches classes at the University of California, Irvine, that he has a variety of academic and commercial publications to his credit, that he is highly skilled in the use of computers, and that he was one of the lead organizers of a grant-funded music documentary for homeless people. These are valuable traits which along with a relaxed, affable manner no doubt contribute to his effectiveness as a colleague and teacher.

Scott Hays is a broadly experienced, talented teacher and writer, as well as someone with high professional standards. I have no doubt that he would be a valuable addition to any college English department. I hope that you will give any application from him your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Dees
Past President, Orange Coast College