



SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

28000 Marguerite Parkway • Mission Viejo • CA 92692-3635
(949) 582-4500 • www.saddleback.edu

March 8, 2012

Santa Monica College
Attention: Search Committee
1900 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA 90405

Dear Search Committee,

As Dean of the Division of Liberal Arts at Saddleback College, I have worked with Professor Scott Hays since the fall of 2001. During these years, I have observed him directly, in meetings and conversations in my office. I have reviewed his faculty evaluations, both for English and Journalism courses he has taught, and can recommend him, without reservation.

His background includes direct experience as a successful, published author and editor, this first-hand knowledge putting him in good stead whether in the composition or the journalism classroom. He understands the rhetorical basis of communication and guides students through the composing process with a keen sense of audience and purpose.

Outside of the classroom, he is a good colleague to others, one example being his interest in and proven track record team teaching. In the area of community involvement, he is well known for an ongoing service project that addresses the homeless and gives them a hand up rather than a hand out.

In the many chats I have enjoyed with Scott over the years, whether it be discussing pedagogy or community issues, he has been informed, engaging, articulate, and, at times, passionate about his views and commitments. I am always impressed with those whose interests and ambitions transcend the classroom.

In conclusion, I say assuredly that Professor Hays would be the kind of department and division colleague who would step up to the work needed when addressing SLOs, program reviews, or implementation of student success measures.

If I can provide additional information, please let me know. I can be reached at koconnor@saddleback.edu or 949-632-7442.

Sincerely,

Kevin O'Connor, Ph.D.
Dean, Liberal Arts