



To Whom It May Concern,

I am grateful for the opportunity to recommend the professional development services of Michael Fenton. When provided an institute day in our district for department-specific learning and professional growth, we went in search of a knowledgeable and authentic presenter to work with the 25 high school math teachers in our district. Michael's name was at the same time garnering respect for the professional development he was leading at several large mathematics conferences. From our initial contact on, Michael was personable, honest, and sincere in his interest in moving mathematics education forward. He was quick and responsive in communication and highly flexible in coordinating a day of professional learning for our staff that was responsive to the particular needs and interests of our teachers.

Michael brings experience as a teacher and teacher-leader and brings a great degree of sincere and truthful experience to his presentation. He understands the realities – both challenges and opportunities – of 21st century classrooms and especially the integrated high school mathematics curriculum pathways our district has each adopted. His humor and honesty in recognizing the challenges teachers face makes his presentation approachable and genuine to teachers.

Perhaps most important, Michael understands the limitations of a one-day professional development model. In five hours, Michael shared a great wealth of resources and demonstrated instructional practices while keeping the activities structured in a clear manner around the themes of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Each of the six mini-sessions he shared came with a clear central message and a focus on the actionable steps for teachers to take in their classrooms. With an admission to the often-acknowledged flaws of one-day workshops, Michael closed each mini-session with an action for teachers to take to strengthen their instructional practices and a timeframe to accomplish it within.

I'm excited for the outcomes of the professional development led by Michael, who exceeded my expectations in every facet, and I would invite him back in an instant given the opportunity. If honest, authentic, and actionable professional development is what you're looking for, look no further.

Sincerely,

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