

Division of External Affairs



November 12, 2000

To Whom it May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Sean Weiner, who until recently served as Donor Records Manager for the Division of External Affairs at the Bank Street College of Education.

Graduate School
of Education

School for Children
and Family Center

Division of
Continuing Education

My professional relationship with Sean began when I was hired as Director of Development at Bank Street in October 1999, even though he had already been connected with the institution for quite some time, first as a student and then as a staff member in External Affairs. As Sean's direct supervisor, I can say that it was my good fortune to have worked closely—although much too briefly—with him as we pushed our way through the many, and oftentimes daunting, challenges of the College's newly implemented computer system. Also, Sean's fellow colleagues—development and alumni relations officers and computer staff personnel—deeply appreciated and respected the fine personal and professional qualities he brought to his position at Bank Street.

From my perspective, Sean is one of those extraordinary employees who come around only rarely, if ever, during one's work career. First, without having a formal background in information technology and with some—but not extensive—training in using the College's new database, Sean quickly learned the system's "language" and its highly complex organizational structure. Second, he held an extremely demanding position within the department, not only in terms of high volume tasks and fixed deadlines, but also because of the wide-ranging nature of office personalities and workloads. As the liaison between External Affairs and Computing Information Services (CIS), he held the central role of communicator—that is, being able to successfully translate the needs and issues of the development and alumni relations officers to the technical staff and vice versa. However, Sean was also heavily involved in analyzing data problems and, in many cases, came up with impressive long-term or interim solutions that were readily adopted by the computing specialists. Sean led our weekly meetings with the technical staff and was also responsible for training and supervising temporary officer workers in the use of the computer system for specific data clean up activities.

Another quality which struck me early on is Sean's keen sense of integrity—his desire to "do the right thing"—in his work and in his relationships with others. He was a dedicated employee, and he is, most definitely, a person of strong character—clear in his opinions, values, and commitment. Yet, he is flexible enough to have an easy sense of humor about matters both large and small. Sean is extremely bright and talented and perhaps his greatest gifts include his ability to learn quickly, to communicate well, and

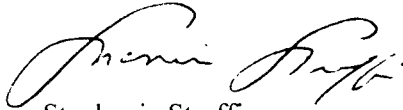
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to manage multiple priorities. All of these qualities enhanced our ability as a department to succeed in what we do—which is, quite simply, to build mutually productive and rewarding relationships between the institution and its many alumni/ae, parents, and friends.

As you can see, I am delighted to have had the chance to work with Sean Weiner. If there is ever another opportunity, it would be a pleasure to again have him as a key member of our team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephanie Straffi".

Stephanie Straffi
Director of Development