

September 28, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for my colleague, Aaron Fried, in support for his promotion to Professor. I have known Aaron in many capacities here at the college; as a Union leader, a Guided Pathways advocate, committee member, teacher, scholar, and supporter of numerous student success initiatives at the college. He executes all these roles with the highest level of professionalism and humility.

When the college embarked upon learning and adopting Guided Pathways, Aaron graciously accepted a leadership role and immediately turned to looking at processes and information at the college that could help bolster student enrollment, success, and retention. He did not hesitate when it came to obtaining information from the people who directly interacted differently with students Associate Professor and Faculty Advisor. Aaron quickly drew upon the expertise of others by sitting down with them, asking great questions, and actively listening to what those individuals had to say. It was through these conversations that the relationship between academics and student affairs began to flourish.

As a part of those conversations about how we could more purposefully assist students, I experienced firsthand the adept ability Aaron possesses to make others feel valued for their work at the college and the input/expertise that they provide. As a direct result of this, he has allies across campus whom he can quickly call as a resource with any questions he has either regarding a student or a project he is working on for the college. Additionally, Aaron takes a collaborative approach to his work. He and I have worked side by side many times to assist students and help them achieve the best possible outcome. He has also sought out the expertise of Student Support Advisors to provide feedback and input into larger events Aaron has organized on campus such as our January Data Summit and Program Mapping Day.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not speak to Aaron's dedication to curriculum development. His work with the Curriculum Committee has positively impacted MVCC and its' students. Through his leadership, Aaron devised and created a program mapping process and had all faculty participate in program mapping day to help others see where the gaps and roadblocks were for our students. In addition, he fostered the discussion that assisted the current school of Business and Hospitality to realign three of their majors to provide for a common first year/meta major.

Aaron is a true asset to the college and someone that I admire for his willingness to continually improve. He has consistently demonstrated to me that he is, and always will be, a lifelong learner. Whether it be in the form of formalized education, research on his own personal interests, or learning informally through his professional contacts, Aaron exudes and emphasizes the importance that knowledge brings to his position both as Associate Professor and also as the Coordinator of Academic Program and Development.

For all the reasons detailed above and so many more, I wholeheartedly support Aaron's promotion to Professor.

Sincerely,



Patti Antanavige
Student Support Advisor – Retention Coordinator