



MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
School of STEM – Transfer
1101 Sherman Drive, Utica, NY 13501

9/17/2021

Promotion Review Committee,

I am writing this recommendation on behalf of my colleague, Aaron Fried who is seeking promotion to the rank of Professor. Over the past six years I have been incredibly fortunate to work with Aaron, including sharing an office for the past three years. In these years I have been able to witness the truly immense amount of time, effort, and love Aaron dedicates to his colleagues, students, and the college. In fact, Aaron has dedicated so much service that I would not come close to being able to describe it to you on one piece of paper, so rather, I will describe some of Aaron's service highlights.

Aaron most recently earned the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. Some of factors that lead to Aaron earning this award include leading our college through one of the biggest transformational frameworks (Guided Pathways) our college has ever embarked on, leading our entire college through program mapping, spearheading a movement to raise equity awareness and providing strategies to increase equity in both the classroom and programs, creating tools for faculty to use to create more cohesive and consistent academic programs, leading our College-Wide Curriculum Committee, and leading our Professional Association through several rounds of negotiations. Again, these are just a few of Aaron's service highlights.

While most faculty on campus are probably familiar with Aaron's dedication to faculty service, many may not be familiar with Aaron's dedication to students in the classroom. For my entire career at MVCC, Aaron has served as the unofficial technology coordinator for Anatomy and Physiology. In this role, Aaron has designed and written several labs, lecture plug-ins, and tutorials. Often to create and write these curricula, Aaron must first learn (and often purchase) new technology. For example, when we went remote due to the pandemic, Aaron bought special software and converted all of our labs in Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 into interactive, self-paced, active learning tutorials. Because of his dedication, our students were able to almost seamlessly transition from in-person (active learning) labs to remote active learning labs.

In addition to writing curricula, Aaron is always looking for ways to increase equity in our classrooms. Each semester Aaron purchases a few old textbooks that he stores on campus for students that aren't able to purchase textbooks. He also always keeps snacks in the office for hungry students. In addition, he has held fundraisers to collect money for our C3 program.

In summary, I think we would be hard pressed to find a colleague who gives more of themselves to our students and fellow colleagues. Aaron is not only a wonderful colleague and dear friend, he is also a mentor, leading by example to make MVCC better for students, faculty, and staff. If you should need any additional information, please contact me at 315-731-5843, or by email at scrocker@mvcc.edu.

Sincerely,

Shannon Crocker

Shannon Crocker, Assistant Professor
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