



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Department of English

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Professional Recommendation

Michael Likhinin

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I am writing to recommend Michael Likhinin for employment or further graduate studies. Michael has been a highly intelligent and motivated master's student in technical communication. He has added a lot of spirit and many unique insights to my graduate classes, Foundations of Technical Communication and Technical Reports, earning solid A's for both. Michael seems to be equally at home working with technical problems involving computer software and its documentation and in discussing sophisticated theories about the nature of technology and the rhetorical challenges of technical communication. I am impressed with Michael's ability to envision the full scope of a technical communication problem and to draw upon relevant theories when working through it

Michael speaks his mind in class; his comments command respect because they are incisive and challenging. He is not afraid to skewer established theory when he disagrees. Yet, he also is quite warm and friendly to visit with outside of class and obviously cares a great deal about his fellow students. I recall once he had to miss a class in order to accompany a fellow student to the hospital. I have grown quite fond of Michael in the two years I have known him and I would be pleased to work with him on the doctoral level if he chose to stay with us.

For our Foundations class, students were required to research real problems in technical communication and offer recommendations. Michael willingly tackled a project proposed by Dr. Madonne Miner in which he and another student developed plans for how to place departmental policy text online. This challenge of uploading print documentation to the Web is a common but often difficult one faced by technical communicators. Michael wrote a clear and convincing recommendation for how that could be accomplished. In the reports class he teamed up with two other students to develop an 88-page report on the officers' duties for the local Society for Technical Communication. This report will be extremely helpful to future officers who can easily draw on existing knowledge.

Earlier this semester, I called on Michael to bring his expertise about Russia to the department book club meeting. Michael read the scholarly book in the short time I gave him and added a unique perspective to the group.

Michael has a great future ahead of him in this field. If I can provide any further information on his behalf, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Baake". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Baake
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