

November 17, 2006

Professor B. T. Huntley
Chair, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences
Front Range Community College

Dear Professor Huntley:

I am pleased to write on behalf of Mr. Mark Saiki who is applying for a teaching position in your department.

I have known Mark for approximately four years during which time he was a graduate student in the UNC History Department. He produced an excellent research paper in my graduate seminar on "War in Asian Memory," and out of this paper grew his exceptionally well conceptualized and researched M.A. Thesis. Entitled "Cooperation, Compliance and Resistance at Amache," the work earned a citation by the Graduate Dean as an outstanding thesis in August of this year.

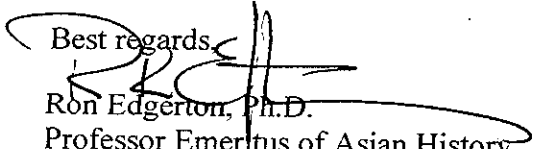
Mr. Saiki is a serious scholar who will make an excellent teacher of historical research methodology. He holds himself to high research standards and he will do the same for his students. Among his strongest attributes is his passion for applying historical theory in analyzing and re-visioning historical issues. He is especially passionate about the Japanese-American experience in relocation camps during World War II, and his M.A. thesis makes a signal contribution in its discussion of the Colorado relocation camp at Granada. I am not alone among his thesis committee members in believing that the work deserves publication.

While I have not had occasion to observe Mark as a teacher, I believe that he will be especially effective working with small groups of students. Participants in such groups will find him to be a mature and thoughtful educator who will listen carefully and respectfully to their opinions, be patient in helping them grow in their research and writing skills, be open-minded and encouraging, and always take them seriously.

Mark spent some four years working on his M.A. thesis, and during that time he matured considerably as a scholar. More importantly, he matured as an individual as well, and I believe that his maturity will serve him well as a teacher. As a person who goes his own way, he will nurture independence of character in his students. As someone who refuses to quit on a project, he will encourage persistence in his charges. And as a man who loves history, he will bring out the same love for the historical enterprise in young people with whom he works.

If you have any questions about this candidate, I would welcome your phone inquiry. Having retired from the UNC History Department in 2004, I can be reached at home (970-330-8617).

Best regards,


Ron Edgerton, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Asian History