Dear Hiring Committee:

I am delighted to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of my friend and former colleague, Craig Edwards.

I first met Craig roughly ten years ago, in 2012, while he was serving as Dean of the School of Arts & Humanities (SAH) at Indiana Wesleyan University–Marion. Craig recruited me to the faculty of the IWU Division of Art + Design, and I worked under his direct supervision as Dean for two years. During that time, I had ample opportunity to observe his professional skills and capabilities while getting to know him and his wife on a close personal level.

While I cannot speak to Craig's technical preparation for the position to which he is applying, his administrative expertise and liberal arts training prepare him exceedingly well for the non-technical requirements of the job. First and foremost, I know Craig to be an honest and ethical person, who conducts his work with the highest level of integrity. His commitment to open communication and organizational transparency during his time as Dean was reflected by his voluntary publication of faculty evaluations of his administrative performance (i.e., individual faculty were permitted to see how the SAH faculty collectively assessed his merits). This level of transparency is extremely rare in higher education administration and is a testament to Craig's admirable candor and character. Moreover, Craig is someone who places a high premium on teamwork and collaboration. Shortly after I was hired onto the IWU faculty, he enlisted me to serve on an academic committee devoted to realizing his vision of an integrated humanities curriculum. Throughout this process, he allowed me and other faculty members to lead the planning process according to our areas of expertise and granted us the freedom to steer the curriculum as we saw fit. He was equally deferential and equitable in his leadership of the 2013-14 design faculty search committee, on which I also served. While Craig ably chaired the committee, he permitted the art faculty to bring their own opinions, perspectives, and knowledge to bear on the decision-making process. Beyond the qualities described above, Craig possesses numerous other traits that lend themselves well to producing client-based work. He is a highly skilled communicator, both verbally and in writing, and is adept at time management and prioritization of tasks. He is highly responsive to requests and turns work around quickly while meeting a high standard of quality. He is also highly skilled in discerning the needs of clients and figuring out how to meet those needs.

For the reasons cited above, I believe Craig would be an asset to your team. If I can provide any further information that would help you evaluate his merits as a candidate, please feel free to contact me using the information below.

Sincerely,

Anne Greeley Chair of the Division of Art + Design Associate Professor of Art History Indiana Wesleyan University anne.greeley@indwes.edu 817.528.6172