



School of Engineering & Applied Science

Department of Electrical Engineering

May 2, 2000

To whom it may concern:

This is a recommendation letter for Paul L. Discher. I have known Paul for about 20 years. During that time he was employed at Washington University in the Electrical Engineering department. Initially, he was the technician for the department, but as his duties expanded his official title became Supervisor, Electrical Engineering Technical Facilities. Paul has had, at different times, several people under his supervision.

In my opinion, Paul, almost single-handedly, revamped and modernized the three electrical engineering undergraduate laboratories that the department has. He designed the layout of the labs, specified lab wiring, bought apparatus, and in a number of instances, took used equipment from other labs, such as benches and tables, and reworked them to where they were attractive additions to the modernized labs. He did most of this with little or no guidance from others.

He has many skills. These include, among others, electronic circuit design, instrument repair, a knowledge of computer hardware and software, industrial and residential power wiring, metal working, and cabinet making. One of his major strengths is the ability to take a job or project and carry it through to completion while doing whatever is necessary to get the job done. I believe everyone here recognizes the fine work that Paul has done for the department in bringing the laboratories to their present state and providing support as necessary for instructional purposes.

Paul also developed and taught an Introductory Projects Course for first year students. This course was very popular with students, both in engineering and liberal arts. It was a hands-on type of course where students learned how to interpret circuit diagrams, to solder and wire wrap, and to put together interesting and useful electronic projects.

However, with all his abilities, I feel it is fair to say that his tenure here has not always been a placid one. Paul is, above all, a self-starter who sets his own agenda and is not easily dissuaded from its course. This commendable characteristic has caused some conflict with other strong personalities in the department. If it were in my power I certainly would arrange things so that the department could continue to enjoy the benefits of Paul's many abilities. I wish him only the best and congratulate a future employer on obtaining such a talented employee.

Sincerely,

Robert Gregory
Professor Emeritus,
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