



May 22, 2017

To: Whom It May Concern

RE: Recommendation Letter for Mr. Derrek Ford

The purpose of this letter is to provide a personal and professional recommendation to Mr. Derrek Ford who I have known as a professional colleague and a friend for nearly two decades.

I first met Derrek in 1998 through the 100-Black Men of Orange County where we both sat on the Board of Directors. Derrek was on Education Committee and coordinated all activities related to youth education, from teaching Saturday classes to counseling to scholarship programs where he ensured that the young men he mentored not only complete their coursework, but proceed to a four-year college.

Derrek was a fixture at the Saturday classes and I have always been impressed not only with his sense of commitments to the young men he mentored, but his oratory skills and his persuasive storytelling that motivated not only his young audience, but also captivated his adult observers. Derrek has a unique ability to deliver a positive message in a manner that connects with his audience magically. Derrek is a man of unparalleled integrity who speaks eloquently from his heart. Listening to him reminds me of my favorite motivational speaker, Les Brown. His style of communication coupled with his ability to instantly connect with his audience at a different level makes him a unique speaker.

I have always enjoyed listening to Derrek's inspiring talk at every opportunity I had. His message needs to be heard by more people and I highly recommend that he be given an opportunity to professionally become a motivational speaker.

Thank you,
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Abdi Ahmed'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Abdi Ahmed, President
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