

SARAH BARTON

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To whom it may concern;

It is my pleasure to recommend John (Jake) Smith for any position in business, marketing, graduate school, or wherever his fortunes take him. He is a quick-witted, bright, young man who makes his own opportunities, and I have no doubt he will go far.

I have known Jake since 1991 when I was teaching English and journalism at Georgia State University. I came to look forward to the critical thinking abilities he brought to every class discussion, no matter which class he was taking. An experienced public speaker, Jake's poise and engaging manner often drew his classmates into greater participation in discussions.

To be sure, Jake is an excellent salesperson, and he is well-suited for marketing. His ideas are original and creative and often cut right to the heart of a selling point. He can think on his feet and improvise. I've seen him do it many times with the charm of a Tom Sawyer, and I just shake my head and smile.

But by far the greatest asset Jake has is his strength of character. Over the years I have seen Jake face adversities that would have stopped a lesser person at square one, not the least of which was a series of frustrating and painful eye surgeries. But there is something in Jake's backbone that doesn't know how to say "Uncle." His determination and inner strength combined with wily ingenuity and adaptability will make him a valued member of any organization.

I am proud to recommend Jake for any position for which you might be considering him.

Sincerely,

Sarah Barton
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute