



March 29, 2003

Re: Steve Gibbs

I have had the pleasure of knowing Steve Gibbs in my role as Director of California TeachTech at Sonoma State University. I employed Steve to assist in the development of three online education technology courses for California teachers. Steve's online course development work was a crucial component in a \$1.5 million statewide grant for the professional development of 800 teachers during 2002-03. Through this professional relationship, I have gained knowledge of Steve's extensive experience and talent in infusing technology in classroom teaching and learning.

Steve has an impressive history of integrating technology into teaching going back to the early 1980s. From graduation at Penn State, he worked as a technology trainer for AT&T for six years before entering public education. Hired at Benicia Unified School District as a journalism teacher in 1985, he was one of the first teachers to bring computers into the classroom by automating his journalism class and introducing desktop publishing in 1987. He soon became the campus technology mentor helping other teachers bring computers into their classrooms. He has been doing teacher technology workshops for 15 of his 19 years with his district.

Steve is an accomplished grant writer who has brought in \$1,121,400 to his school through an endowment from the East Bay Community Foundation and the California Digital Grant. He also wrote the Distinguished School Award application for his campus, and has been a published weekly newspaper columnist for 19 years. Steve's writing skills resulted in his high school being wired for the Internet in 1999, with computers in every classroom and the creation of seven specialty labs. Since that time he has acted as their technology coordinator, being released from his classes for 60-percent of his day to train faculty and students, procure and install equipment, and implement new programs such as the annual freshman technology orientation program, the new-teacher technology orientation program, and the senior digital portfolio program.

Steve's technology integration efforts have expanded beyond his campus. He became an Intel® Master Teacher in 1999 and has successfully taken 54 teachers from his district and surrounding districts through the rigorous 40-hour, live-lab Intel® Teach to the Future program. In 2001 he became the district technology mentor bringing staff training to seven school sites, K-12. He became involved with Sonoma State University through the California TeachTech program and began teaching online.

In 2001 Steve entered the Sonoma State University Masters program and is about to earn his MA in Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning with a emphasis on technology. Steve has been contracted through several SSU grants to develop and teach online courses for the Department of Extended Education. His Web design skills and knowledge of curriculum have resulted in three outstanding online courses. Steve is also a technology consultant for SSU's LightBridge Internet2 project, designing Web content and conducting workshops. He is currently contributing to SSU's efforts to integrate digital portfolios into the credentialing program. The digital portfolio is the focus of Steve's Masters cognate.

I have found him to be a tremendous asset to our technology infusion efforts here at Sonoma State University. His talents are varied, mature, and field-tested. He would bring strength, vigor, and prosperity to any organization that was fortunate enough to hire him. I recommend him highly and without reservation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at <burke.cochran@sonoma.edu> or 707-762-5049.

Burke Cochran
Director, California TeachTech