



To Whom it May Concern,

I have worked with the students at the Los Altos Academy of Engineering (LAAE) now for 6 years. Working at the Southern California Electric Vehicle Technical Center as the supervisor over advance battery testing, safety coordinator, and project leader, I have helped the students by testing some batteries and explaining how to test their own in the future.

As one of their sponsors I've attended their ROP meetings and have made suggestions to their class work shop on safety issues dealing with charging, handling and storage of batteries. Their processes have been honed to the quality of small laboratory with a diminutive budget. I've watched how the students have innovatively created methods of discharging batteries and keeping logs to compare and analyze their work. From this they are able to match up different modules to obtain the best possible battery pack for a race. All this was done with close scrutiny and precision to my amazement.

In this time I have had the honor to watch the growth and maturation of students dealing with the Electrothon and solar vehicle races. The LAAV has helped create some very good students that are hard working with good work ethics. I know this very well since I've had the pleasure to hire many of them to work for me as they have gone on to college. The break-in period for these new employees was short and they usually were able to hit the lab floor running. I would recommend any of these employees because of their skills and accomplishments obtained at the LAAE.

I have personally given a lecture to the class on the possibility of a future with no oil and shown electric vehicles to the students. Their interest was intoxicating and the questions flowed freely. The students that I have been personally involved with from this school have been very impressive, self starters and valuable to me. They are getting a great lesson with this project no matter what level of involvement.

If I can be of any help or if anyone would like to discuss any information dealing with my interest in workings with the school, I'd be happy to discuss it with them.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Knipe  
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