

Dr Steven J. Novotny
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Monument, CO 80132

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Dear Search Committee:

I have known David Kennington for several years, primarily through his role as principal of Monument Academy – my daughter’s former high school. I have interacted with him as a parent, as an educator, and as a fellow scholar interested in pedagogy and educational theory. In my own educational career, I have taught physics, mathematics, and computer science at the college level. As a senior faculty member, I served on a major university’s institutional outcome development team. In addition, I was the director for the university’s Center for Physics Education Research, supported in part by the National Science Foundation. I have taught, led, and planned in many roles and at many levels of education. And I give my strongest endorsement to David Kennington.

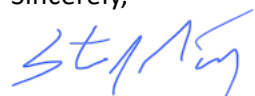
I chose Monument Academy for my daughter because of David. He had a clear and well-articulated vision of how he wanted to develop students into scholars, something I had not seen at any other institution—and certainly not at high schools. I have never met an educational leader who demonstrates a stronger or more passionate dedication to the well-being and the future of all his students. Through his leadership, he intentionally and successfully created a community of scholars in which students were both supported and challenged while maintaining respect for one another. Within this environment, I watched my daughter and her friends thrive.

I personally left academia to pursue research and development in private industry. I work in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning—a field that is rewarding and lucrative. However, the only person who has ever been able to tempt me back into education is David. His vision for developing scholars through an integrated academic curriculum, consistent with a true classical approach, is inspiring. Through his leadership, he created a setting in which critical thinking, confidence, and leadership develop organically in an environment founded in personal accountability and an emphasis on character. To him, a classical education was more than just adding Latin to the curriculum. I believe that a truly effective academic environment is one that is, at its core, a debate. For students to be successful in this debate they need knowledge, interpersonal skills, confidence, and the strength of character needed to stand behind a position. This is what I saw happening because of David.

David has a true heart for education and developing young people. I know he will excel in any administration and/or teaching role. I know this because I have seen it first hand.

If you would like me to expand on any of my statements or provide more information, please feel free to call me at (719) 339-9692.

Sincerely,



Steven Novotny, PhD
Lt Col, US Air Force (retired)
Founder & CEO, Brainstrom AI, LLC