

April 7, 2025

Rising Star Award
Letter of Recommendation for Scott Travers

I am writing in support of Scott Travers as a candidate for the Rising Star award in the Bellisario college. I have known Scott for four years as a colleague in the film business, a family friend and as Assistant Equipment Room Manager in the Bellisario College of Communications. I can say without reservation that he is an excellent individual and has woven himself into the fabric of the production community of the college.

I became acquainted with Scott when he was a motion picture camera technician in a Los Angeles rental house, where I rented equipment for a film I was producing. When my daughter Elise relocated to LA in 2018, he and his wife Katie befriended my daughter, and were among her support during the Covid lockdown period. I met him personally when the couple relocated to Boalsburg in 2021.

When Scott was hired by the Bellisario college in 2023, I discovered what a genuine, hard-working individual he is. He learns extremely quickly and is eager to join in tech support when I am conducting class. He has been the best teaching assistant imaginable in our Comm 440 Cinematography course. The students perceive him as a person of expertise and congenial point of support. His excellent behind-the-scenes photography has led to the launch of @pennstatefilm on Instagram, which is quickly becoming a popular outreach asset to majors, alumni and potential students. I have also collaborated with him on video work for the Centre County Historical Society and have seen these same traits in action. Further, he has directed plays for Next Stage, another demonstration of interacting with the local arts scene.

Scott has a disarming sense of humor. Like any intellectually curious person, he asks a lot of questions. His leadership qualities show in his instruction, as he is a patient and effective teacher, teaching a freshman seminar course this past fall. He is likewise working on an advanced degree in service of advancing his teaching ambitions. I feel that he will be an outstanding Rising Star recipient, and I offer him my highest possible recommendation

Rod Bingaman



Associate Teaching Professor, Film Production
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