

August 9, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Paul Brown since his days as an undergraduate at SUNY Geneseo. In my letter of recommendation for his graduate school applications, I wrote that Paul was “one of the most impressive undergraduate students that I have worked with in my over twenty years in student development. When I learned that he was considering graduate work in our field I was quite pleased, as Paul possesses a combination of intellectual ability, organizational and leadership skills, and interpersonal skills that are certainly in great demand in the profession.”

Since that time, Paul’s work and scholarship in the field of student affairs has certainly validated what I wrote in 2000, and it is without hesitation that I support his nomination as an American College Personnel Association Diamond Honoree.

There are several things that stand out about Paul Brown and his place in our profession. One is his intellectual curiosity. Paul approaches our work with a problem solving approach that is founded on his intellectual curiosity, his keen critical thinking skills, and his dedication to learning and development. In this way alone, I believe he is a model student affairs professional.

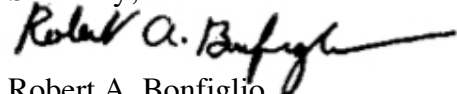
However, another important attribute that Paul brings to his work is a commitment to innovation. Paul has written and spoken frequently on the topic of social media and student identity development, and is a thought leader on this topic among the scholar practitioners of our field. His blog and his presentations have brought new modes of information delivery to the profession. What has made his innovative approach so effective is that it is fully integrated with a deep knowledge of student development theory. As a result, Paul has fostered the evolution of our work to maintain pace with the changing times.

Paul has also, throughout his career, been actively involved in the work of the association as an effective presenter, program planner, and governing board member. His involvement in our field is as broad and as deep as his work in his various professional roles.

In 2000, I closed my letter of recommendation for Paul with this statement: “I would be honored if Paul Brown followed in the footsteps of those of us who have chosen to work with college students in a mentoring and advising capacity... I look forward to hearing about Paul’s success ..., and to having Paul as a colleague in the years to come.”

Sixteen years later, I would certainly be honored if Paul Brown followed in *my* footsteps by being named as a Diamond Honoree. Given his impressive record of career achievement, I know that Paul will continue to find success in his chosen field, and continue to impact on our work in unique and pathbreaking ways.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Bonfiglio  
Vice President for Student and Campus Life