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### **Recommendation for Mr. Sameer Shah**

To whom it concerns:

I am delighted to be able to recommend Mr. Sameer Shah for positions in secondary education. I have worked with him extensively over four years, both as a student and as a teacher and have the highest regard for his capacities.

From the first time I met Sameer Shah four years ago he talked with enthusiasm about his love of teaching and his desire ultimately to make a contribution to education. And education has been a consistent theme in our discussions ever since. During his second year as a graduate student at UCLA, Sameer was a teaching assistant in my lecture class surveying the history of science from Newton to Darwin, where he led discussion sections of 20 students each. For our weekly preparation meetings with the other teaching assistants, he always came not only prepared but also full of questions about the intellectual and historical content of the materials and about ways of presenting them to the students. I learned as much from these discussions as from the reading itself. As a teacher, Sameer was already fully equipped, no doubt because he had previously earned a teaching certificate in Massachusetts and had developed his skills with younger students. In any case, his teaching in my class, as well as in the other courses in which he has participated here at UCLA, has been a great success, earning the extraordinary ratings of 8.4-8.8 on a scale of 9. He has a natural talent for communicating with students and evoking the best from them.

Sameer came to UCLA to do a Ph.D. degree in history of science. As he began developing his research subject, he almost inevitably, it would seem, began to gravitate toward issues of science education, textbooks, and pedagogical techniques and practices. The more he got into the subject, however, the more he realized that his real passion is teaching itself, interacting with students and contributing to their well-being. For this reason, he has decided to pursue this active and altruistic life rather than the somewhat isolating scholarship of the Ph.D. As his advisor, I am saddened by his decision and would dearly love to have him continue here. He has quite unusual intellectual gifts, both as mathematician (perfect record at MIT) and historian of science. But I am convinced that he can deploy these gifts to better effect, both for himself and for society, in secondary education.

One of my reasons for thinking so is that Sameer has always been the student who took the most nurturing interest in his colleagues in our program. In seminars, he listens carefully to what others have to say and is unfailingly constructive in his comments on their work and ideas. In fact, he has been the mainstay of the social life of the program and we will miss his attractive and engaging personality as much as his acute intellect.

Sameer Shah has my very highest recommendation, both personally and intellectually.

Sincerely,



M. Norton Wise  
Distinguished Professor, History of Science  
Co-Director, Center for Society and Genetics  
UCLA

