

Nik Hassan has been an advisor to me and many other students at the University Minnesota Duluth (UMD) for several years. I feel honored and obligated to help support him in furthering his career goals and choices by writing this letter.

I offer a different perspective than what the typical student due to my age and experiences. I am a nontraditional student who returned to college after having a life changing accident. I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a focus in Management Information Systems. I currently work for SISU Medical Solutions and have an office at Community Memorial Hospital in Cloquet, Minnesota.

I give great credit and appreciation to what Mr. Hassan has offered to me and other students. He is dedicated and works diligently to help people in many arenas. I remember having some pretty significant family issues at one time and Mr. Hassan took the time to talk with me. Being an older student, I found that some instructors would treat me differently but not Mr. Hassan. I appreciate his supportive nature and encouragement; which I believe allowed me to continue with college, when things were tough in my life.

I worked on an under-graduate research project with Mr. Hassan. My role in the research was to gather data and give a brief synopsis. The mechanical portion of this was rather boring but the conversations with Mr. Hassan pulled the information together for me and opened my eyes to a very different world. This really motivated me to expand my thinking and researching for myself and helped me give perspective to my current work.

Having sat through many classes of his, I can vouch for many of his abilities. One very memorable class I had with him was Systems. In my opinion, Mr. Hassan did an incredible job taking a huge topic and condensing it into something that could be digested in one semester. It was a very challenging class and I believe Mr. Hassan had a unique and interesting way of addressing it. There was an incredible amount of work to do, more than most other classes I was taking at the time. During the class, other students would become frustrated and simply not want to do the work. I can honestly say that after that class was finished, I felt proud and had a feeling that I knew what I was doing. Mr. Hassan's style of teaching was conducive to me. In that class, when you turned in your assignments, you received prompt feedback. Opportunities were made to make corrections and Mr. Hassan was always willing to meet with me to clarify information or directions.

Mr. Hassan empowers his students to do their best and help to promote a good work ethic that I feel is slipping from our nation. His door is always open and if you go down there today during school hours, he is likely talking with students, in class teaching or preparing for those meetings. When you knock, he will greet you and try to help if need be. He is always available for students and even ex-students who need help.

I hope this letter helps give perspective to what I feel Mr. Hassan has done for me and other students at UMD. Mr. Hassan is a highly qualified and admired instructor; empathetic counselor/advisor; and deserving educator.

Jay Knute
MIS Director
Community Memorial Hospital
512 Skyline Blvd
Cloquet, MN. 55720
218-878-7613