



June 10th, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Dr. David Walton. We have been colleagues at Lake-Sumter State College for over five years. It has been my immense privilege to work with him on the Institutional Review Board, the UFF Union, and numerous other college ventures. Dr. Walton has been an incredible faculty member and asset to our college. His leadership, expertise, and commitment to academic service are beyond reproach. I cannot overemphasize how integral he has been for developing a scholarly community at LSSC, how he has brought faculty together across different campuses, and how he has spent countless hours supporting student, faculty, and administrative projects. His absence at the college would be a crucial error and misstep for the future of LSSC.

In addition to my personal experience with Dr. Walton, it is clear his research (both in academic and popular outlets) is commendable. He has published in various scholarly and popular outlets in multiple languages. Our institution recognized the impressiveness of his work by awarding Dr. Walton the "Excellence in Scholarship" award in 2019. It is noteworthy this research was done while also teaching – at a minimum – five courses per semester. This matters not only because it is challenging but also because it is a testament to Dr. Walton's professional commitment. Being an excellent instructor and researcher is an uncommon combination – one

that should not be minimized at our (or any) institution of higher learning. These skills benefit students, faculty, administrators, and the surrounding community.

LSSC is lucky to have faculty members of Dr. Walton's caliber. His combination of teaching excellence, student mentorship, research accomplishments, and commitment to our institution is rare during my time at LSSC.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Olen, Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Lake-Sumter State College

OlenP@lssc.edu

407.920.5132

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Olen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin D. Arms, MLIS
Assistant Librarian – Access Services
Lake-Sumter State College Libraries
9501 US Hwy 441
Leesburg, FL 34788

Peer Review Committee for Dr. David Walton
Continuing Contract Candidate
Lake-Sumter State College

November 1, 2019

Dear esteemed committee members,

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Dr. David Walton for continuing contract at Lake-Sumter State College.

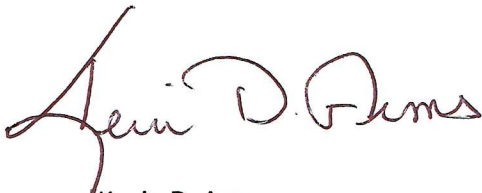
In his time at the college, Dr. Walton has been a collaborative partner with the LSSC Library system in bringing students access to anthropology materials like our Human Ancestors skull collection and by providing students with hands-on materials like the Peruvian Artifact collection in his Archaeology classes to further enhance learning using the College Archives collection of materials.

In addition to his collaborative work with the LSSC Library System, Dr. Walton has also been a continued supporter of LSSC Theatre productions and has served as a respondent to our original productions, offering his feedback, viewpoint, and expertise to our shows. He frequently attends arts and cultural events at Lake-Sumter State College and is a major force in helping us increase our attendance for performances by offering extra credit opportunities to our students and enrichment activities that explore the social and cultural aspects of college life.

Above all else, Dr. Walton has consistently demonstrated and exceeded the LSSC Values of learning, respect, student success, forward thinking, commitment to excellence, and accessibility. For all of these reasons, I strongly recommend Dr. Walton for continuing contract at Lake-Sumter State College.

Should you wish for any further information about Dr. Walton's commitment and dedication to our students, faculty, and staff, please do not hesitate to contact me for additional comments. It would be my pleasure to speak with you at length about Dr. Walton's successes.

Warmest regards,



Kevin D. Arms
Access Services Librarian
Lake-Sumter State College Libraries



L.K.

Linda P. Karp

9605 E. Dewey Robbins Rd, Howey in the Hills, FL 34737 | (352) 223-0028 | Linda.Karp@icloud.com

October 5, 2019

Dear Dr. Wymer:

This letter serves as my personal recommendation for Dr. David Walton to receive continuing contract. I have worked at LSSC for over 18 years. During this time, I have been familiar with numerous faculty that have gone above and beyond to serve our college and students. However, Dr. Walton raised the bar for future faculty due to his outstanding commitment to our students in both their academics and their on-campus involvement through Student Life.

Dr. Walton has been an integral part of LSSC for the past five years. During this period, he gave freely of his time to become the advisor to our Humanities Club at the Southlake campus. Being a club advisor takes patience, time, and dedication, which Dr. Walton clearly demonstrated. One such notable example was when he organized a weekend trip to Miami to introduce the students to historical buildings and museums. Organizing a student trip is not an easy task. There are numerous forms to fill out, student information to collect, reservations to be made, and the responsibility of chaperoning the students. However, Dr. Walton asked questions, turned everything in, and stayed in contact with Student Life during their trip. The students, upon their return, were overwhelmed with the culture they learned about and could not stop talking about the fantastic time they had. This social and educational event would not have been possible for our students without faculty, such as Dr. Walton.

Additionally, during my role in Student Life, students shared with me daily their experiences with our faculty. I can say without hesitation that Dr. Walton is held in high respect by our students. They are quick to say his classes are challenging, but they enjoy what they have learned and shared with me their lessons.

From a faculty perspective, I have had the honor of working with Dr. Walton on committees. We served together on the Service-Learning committee, and his perspectives contributed significantly to enhance our students learning. He proposed a Participatory Action Research component, which is a community-focused method of anthropological fieldwork. This Service-Learning project would involve our students in our community by seeking a community problem that needs addressing and finding a solution through the perspective of an anthropologist. The project enables students to be involved in our community while experiencing first-hand what he teaches in his classroom. Furthermore, Dr. Walton has been a supportive colleague for me personally as I transitioned from Student Life to full-time faculty. His support and patience as I learned the system and asked questions aid me in my success. His welcoming demeanor allowed me to feel included and accepted into my faculty role.

In conclusion, we would be amiss not to present Dr. Walton with continuing contract at LSSC. Instructors like him are in high demand at institutions across our country, yet we are the lucky institution as he chooses to enhance the lives of our students here.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

Linda P Karp

Linda P Karp



Lake Sumter
State College

WHERE FUTURES SOAR

October 2019

Lake-Sumter State College
9501 U.S. Hwy 441
Leesburg, FL 34788

To the Continuing Contract Review Committee:

I would like to recommend Dr. David Walton for continuing contract and the promotion to Assistant Professor. I have had the pleasure of working with and supervising David during his time here at Lake-Sumter State College and I have witnessed, firsthand, his drive and applied scholarly attributes.

Since day one David has been a consistent professional. He began by developing and teaching a newly created course in anthropology as well as student life skills to fill his schedule. During his first few years here, he was also a doctoral candidate at Boston University. While adjusting to being faculty at Lake-Sumter and developing courses, David finished writing his dissertation and successfully defended it to earn his PhD in archaeology. He has since published numerous peer-reviewed articles related to his continued research in central Mexico on use wear analysis. Leveraging these skills, he also created and developed the Introduction to World Archaeology course bringing lessons learned to the classroom. In applying his faculty project, which focuses on hands-on learning, students find themselves analyzing skull casts, creating tomb inscriptions, and shaping obsidian blades among other well-designed projects. David brings these subjects alive for students.

Dr. David Walton has consistently shown dedication to his subject and his students. His continued engagement in his subject through publishing (and assisting others while chairing the Institutional Review Board) has recently earned him the Excellence in Scholarship award. His creative approaches to instruction and high standards consistently benefit his students. David is an asset to this college, he always does his best work, and more than deserves this promotion.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Norton
Associate Professor, Political Science

L E E S B U R G ♦ S U M T E R ♦ S O U T H L A K E

9501 U.S. HIGHWAY 441 ♦ LEESBURG, FLORIDA ♦ 34788-8751 ♦ P: 352.787.3747 ♦ W: LSSC.EDU

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to write you today to recommend Dr. David Walton for a position at your institution. I have worked closely with Dr. Walton at Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) for the last six years, and throughout that time, I have been consistently impressed by both his dedication to students and his dedication to scholarship.

Dr. Walton is an extraordinary educator with an excellent understanding of pedagogical practice and instructional design. He sets high standards for his students and then provides them with the resources and knowledge necessary for them to not only meet, but often exceed, his expectations. Dr. Walton consistently goes above and beyond to empower students both inside and outside of the classroom, as evidenced by his grant-funded development of our Humanities Lecture Series, his exemplary research on the impact of kinesthetic techniques in the anthropology classroom, and his leadership role as an advisor to the Humanities Preservation Society. He is beloved by both students and faculty, and his courses are always the first I recommend to students looking to take classes in the social sciences.

At LSSC, Dr. Walton has consistently taught five courses per semester, many of which are writing intensive, while also being actively involved in student life and taking leadership roles on committees and workgroups. However, despite what is objectively a very full workload, Dr. Walton has still always managed to make time to continue prioritizing anthropological/archeological research. During his six years at LSSC, he has amassed nearly a dozen publications, applied for and received multiple grants, including one from the National Science Foundation, and presented at a number of national conferences. In 2019, he became the first and only faculty member at LSSC to be given an award in honors of Excellence in Scholarship.

Dr. Walton is one of those rare academics who is as gifted at teaching and mentoring students as he is at conducting, presenting, and publishing research. It is hard to imagine any role you could possibly place him in where he would not thrive. In addition to being an extraordinary teacher and scholar, he is also an excellent colleague whose strong leadership skills, combined with his ability to serve in a support capacity when necessary, make him an ideal addition to any workgroup or committee on which he serves. He is a joy to work with and would be a tremendous asset to your organization.

I have no doubt that Dr. Walton would excel in this position, and he has my highest recommendation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss him further, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at AKarlins@gmail.com or via phone at 813-480-3265. I would be happy to further sing his praises.

Sincerely,

Amber Karlins

Assistant Professor of English and Humanities, Honors Program Coordinator



Lake Sumter
State College

Mr. Matthew Kennedy
1250 N. Hancock Rd.
Clermont, FL 34711

June 18, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to give my highest recommendation to Dr. David Walton, who has served with distinction at Lake-Sumter State College as an outstanding professor and colleague, as well as a brilliant mind in the field of anthropology.

David's dedication to student success is evident in the way he creates exciting educational opportunities for his students. His enthusiasm and love of anthropology and ancient cultures is demonstrated not only through his extensive scholarship and direct involvement with ongoing research in Mexico, but in the way he brings his experiences into the classroom.

I was fortunate enough to attend a demonstration of Dr. Walton's obsidian tool production activity, which provides a wonderful hands-on, kinesthetic learning experience that his students will never forget. David's creativity and passion for anthropology, and his deep commitment to student success, make every classroom experience memorable and relatable. Whether teaching online, hybrid, or face-to-face courses, David's students are actively engaged in learning, and enthusiastically enjoying their experience at LSSC.

In addition to his role as an outstanding educator, David's mentorship of students outside the classroom, and his service to the college, has made him an integral part of student life. As an advisor for the Humanities Preservation Society, David has organized and led student trips to museums and cultural festivals. He also served as a student mentor in our Honors Program, and as a judge in the Science Fair and History Day competitions.

Dr. Walton's research and field work in his subject make him one of the most qualified professionals to work at this college. His numerous professional publications, reports, book reviews, grants, research projects, and even a documentary film entitled, *The Lost Pyramids of the Aztecs*, demonstrate the depth and quality of his professional and academic life.

Dr. Walton is a truly exceptional colleague and friend. It has been a pleasure to see his positive influence on other professors in the Arts and Letters Department. He has shown tremendous flexibility with the classes he teaches, and he is always willing to help with work groups and special projects.

Dr. David Walton is a dedicated educator and inspiring presence on campus. I look forward to continuing our mission to provide students at Lake-Sumter State College a relevant and meaningful educational experience for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Mr. Matthew Kennedy

Assistant Professor– English, Creative Writing & Film
Lake-Sumter State College
kennedym@lssc.edu
352-989-6304



J. Patrick Rader, M.F.A.

704 Hilltop Court, Mount Dora, FL 32757

Phone (352) 638-0536 • E-mail: panspeak@gmail.com

June 24, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the privilege and pleasure to work with Dr. David Walton on multiple occasions while he was a fellow faculty member at Lake-Sumter State College. I am disheartened to see him leave our ranks but know he would be a welcome addition to any organization.

As an Instructor, Dr. Walton's classes were always filled to capacity. Because I often taught across the hall from him, on multiple occasions, students would approach me about getting into his filled classes. Excitement from his lectures and classroom exercises frequently spilled over into my classes. David is a tough act to follow. His dedication to teaching his students and finding new ways to connect with them is an outstanding professional barometer for any Instructor at any academic level.

Having worked with Dr. Walton on a handful of committees and workgroups, I can further attest to his level of professionalism and competence. When not taking a leadership position in the more administrative roles of our job, David was, and remains, an ideal team player. He listens as well as he directs. Even though he may be over ten years my junior, I have learned a lot from Dr. David Walton about Anthropology and Education.

Allow me to repeat myself. I know Dr. David Walton would be a welcome addition to any organization. I am proud to have worked alongside him and honored that he would call me a peer. Please feel free to contact me should you care to discuss David's contributions to LSSC further.

Sincerely,

J. Patrick Rader

*Assistant Professor of English
Lake-Sumter State College*

June 22, 2021

Toni M. Upchurch
Lake-Sumter State College, South-Lake
1250 North Hancock Rd.
Clermont, FL 34711

To Whom it May Concern,

I have long admired Dr. Walton's creativity in the classroom and his kind nature. He is usually smiling and is open in his communication with his colleagues, students, and friends. As the faculty advisor for Prism, Lake Sumter State College's LGBTQ+ allies student club, I was grateful for the opportunity to work with Dr. Walton on student lead initiatives. I know that Dr. Walton holds his students in high regard and will go above and beyond to help them to succeed. This was evident in his support for the advocacy efforts of students in the club.

As an Anthropology Professor, one of the subjects Dr. Walton teaches on is gender and identity. The club president of Prism, a trans woman and a former student in Dr. Walton's class, asked Dr. Walton if she could use his class to increase awareness, understanding, and advocacy.

For the last 3-4 semesters, Dr. Walton has hosted and facilitated a panel discussion on gender and culture lead by students in the LGBTQ+ community. These discussions are thoughtful, intelligent, and well-researched academic projects that encourage our students to communicate openly and dynamically about issues that are important.

Dr. Walton's care and leadership has allowed several students in my club to develop their leadership and mentorship skills; learn more about themselves and the world around them, and educate their peers and create a more just and equitable community. Again, Dr. Walton is a kind and compassionate professor. He is a role model for our students and for us.

Sincerely,



Toni M. Upchurch
Assistant Professor Speech
& Journalism

Brandy Ziesemer
Health Services Management Program Manager/Professor
Lake-Sumter State College
Cell 352-551-8135; Email Ziesemberb@Comcast.net

June 14, 2021
Re: Dr. David Walton

Dear Administrative Judges:

I have been Dr. Walton's colleague for about 6 years. Dr. Walton is a respected leader with excellent communication skills and a professional educator who is passionate about continuous professional development for himself and his colleagues and who is passionate about engaging students and inspiring them to a philosophy of lifelong learning.

Dr. Walton not only developed "Introduction to Anthropology for Lake-Sumter State College and received institutional "Quality Matters" certification, he also developed "Introduction to World Archeology." His experience with research in Mexico (funded by grants from Lake-Sumter State College, Boston University, Dartmouth College and the National Science Foundation) brings prestige to the college but also generates a lot of student interest so enrollment is always strong in his classes. He is a student club leader and he has arranged many field trips for students. His dedication to student learning is evident in all he does. An example is during the pandemic, he not only converted a heavy course load to online real time using Zoom for class meetings and office hours, he did so in a manner that mirrored face-to-face time with regards to the courses being student-learning focused.

From a professional development perspective, Dr. Walton shares knowledge with colleagues informally and formally. Some examples include: Hosting an online (via Zoom) Humanities Lecture Series in which guest speakers from several colleges and universities in Florida presented lectures that were free for faculty and staff to attend (virtually). He is a member of the college's "professional development" workgroup and co-chaired the college's first IRB. He has lead faculty professional development sessions on the scientific method and on "active student learning" as well as on human evolution.

In addition to the extensive field research Dr. Walton has done, he has published articles in leading peer-reviewed journals and presented at a national conference. He has also co-hosted a television special for a science channel in the United States that also aired in the UK and in France.

Please consider all Dr. Walton has to offer as you determine whether or not to reinstate him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandy Ziesemer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Michael E. Morse
Lake-Sumter State College
Leesburg Campus
9501 U.S. HIGHWAY 441
LEESBURG, FL 34788

Letter of Recommendation
For Dr. David Walton
June 10, 2021

To Whom it may concern,

I highly recommend Dr. David Walton who is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Lake Sumter State College. David has been with the college for six years. He joined the college after a nationwide search to find an Instructor of Anthropology because the subject was added to the state core in general education. I, Dr. Michael Morse, was the chair of that committee and he was the most qualified candidate of the over thirty candidates we screened for that position.

David is self-motivated and extremely intelligent as well as being a multitasker. He had already been approved for his doctoral project (ABD) when David joined the college in Fall 2015. While continuing to work on the research of and the writing of his dissertation, he developed and began teaching ANT 2000 Introduction to Anthropology, a writing intensive course that earned institutional Quality Matters certification in the 2019/2020 academic school year. David developed a new course for the college, ANT 2100 Introduction to World Archaeology, based on his expertise as an archaeologist. He also consistently offers sections of SLS 1501 Foundations of Success Seminar and GEO 1000 Introduction to Geography to give students more educational options.

Besides being a great professor, David is also an excellent scholar and published before he began working at LSSC. He has written articles published in leading peer-reviewed academic journals in his field such as Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory, Antiquity, Ancient Mesoamerica, and Journal of Field Archaeology and presented at national conferences of the Society for American Archaeology. To help reach the popular audience, David also co-hosted a television special, Lost Pyramids of the Aztecs (2020), which aired on the Science Channel in the US, Channel 4 in the UK, and France 5.

David is very devoted to the students of LSSC. David developed a faculty project centered on enhancing student learning. His topic was the incorporation of hands-on, kinesthetic learning opportunities for his students. He includes activities such as obsidian tool production and the handling of skull casts as instructional aides based on the results of this project. His continuing contract portfolio was submitted in December 2019 and approved by each level of

To Whom it May Concern

June 10, 2021

Page 2

administration, including the District Board of Trustees in Spring 2020. In Fall 2020, the college began using his portfolio as one of its exemplars for annual contract faculty members to consult.

Continuing with the subject of a student-centered approach, David also, without pay, became one of the advisors to one of our student groups. As an adviser for the student group The Humanities Preservation Society, he organizes and chaperones trips to museums and cultural festivals with student members. David also worked as a faculty mentor to one of the inaugural Honors Program students in their capstone project.

Dr. Walton also served the college in many ways. He was tapped as a co-chair to develop an Institutional Review Board, working through this committee to get procedures approved by the Deans Council and Strategic Planning council. He always attends meetings and faithfully discharges his obligations beyond the norm.

As stated at the beginning of this recommendation, I would completely and without reservation recommend him for any and all positions for which he applies.

If you would like additional information about Dr. David Walton is a, you can telephone me at telephone number.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael E. Morse

Assistant Professor (Former Department Chair of the Humanities)

386-365-5673