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Dear Sir or Madam,

Recently I had the opportunity to work with Mick during his time at FedEx. Mick was contracted by FedEx Ground in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania and I was first introduced to Mick in March, 2009. When I met Mick, I had very limited Java experience or knowledge. At the time I was a recent college graduate, and I knew Java only from the classroom setting. I had “book smarts”, but I had very limited real world experience. I knew nothing of programming best practices or frameworks to assist in development. When I came to Mick with a new application, he was extremely willing and excited to show me the best way to build my application from the ground up. Mick has a very large skill set and I was very impressed at the depth to which he knew such a variety of topics. But even more impressive than his knowledge was the passion that he exhibited. Mick was always excited about helping me learn new things, or enhancing my application in some way. Mick taught me design principles (such as test driven development) and frameworks (such as Spring, Hibernate). Having no foreknowledge of these topics, I was reliant on Mick to teach me. Mick taught me these topics exceptionally well. He was always patient and I felt I could approach him with any question. Mick was always willing to take the time required to help me fully understand the subject. Best of all, Mick never wrote my code for me. I’ve worked with mentors in the past who have written code and then just given it to me with limited explanation, but this was never the case with Mick. Mick was determined to be a teacher and to impart knowledge, even if that would take more time for him in the short term. Mick was also very willing to answer questions he had knowledge of, even if they were not part of his job description or day to day activities.

Mick has had an immeasurable influence on my career. In a very short amount of time, Mick has substantially affected my productivity and the quality of my applications. With Mick’s help, I was able to surprise end users and management with the speed and quality that I could deliver features.

I am regretful that I no longer have the opportunity to work with Mick. I am sure that Mick will bring his unique skill set, passion, and mentoring ability to whatever task he is on. Mick has the ability to influence his co-workers to be more productive, passionate, and focused on quality.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

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