

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

May 12, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Department of Animal Science
2356B Kildee Hall
Ames, Iowa 50011-3150 U.S.A.

VOICE: 515-294-5544

FAX: 515-294-4471

E-MAIL: cryoungs@iastate.edu

Mr. Ryan Callahan has asked that I write a letter of recommendation in support of his application for post-baccalaureate career opportunities. It is with great pleasure that I do so.

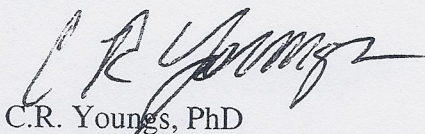
I have known Mr. Callahan since December 31, 2010 when we first met to discuss the possibility of my hiring him to assist me by preparing a handful of scientific illustrations. Ryan came highly recommended to me by Dr. Lynn Clark who oversees the biological/premedical illustration program here at Iowa State University.

After meeting with Ryan, I decided to hire him to prepare a series of seven illustrations which depicted the osmotic changes that occur when mammalian preimplantation embryos are dehydrated in preparation for cryopreservation (freezing). Although Mr. Callahan did have some basic training in the biological sciences, this project fell outside of his technical knowledge base. Rather than letting that paucity of knowledge serve as an impediment, Ryan asked me for reading materials that would help him better understand the process that I wanted him to depict. He also, of his own volition, looked on the web to find other information that would help him "wrap his arms" around this project. Mr. Callahan and I met frequently to review progress on his artwork and to answer scientific questions he had. He was very concerned about preparing illustrations that were biologically correct without being so technically detailed that the illustrations lost educational value to the non-specialist.

To make a long story short, Ryan and I went through several iterations of thumbnail sketches until we both were comfortable with him proceeding with preparation of the final (larger) specimens on illustration board. During that process he was always responsive to my requests but also was firm enough to point out that some of my wishes were not artistically realistic or wise. My only potential criticism of Ryan is that, on occasion, he talked at greater length about what needed to be done than what I felt was necessary. However, I really can't complain about that because, when all was said and done, I was quite pleased with the end result. The illustrations Ryan prepared for me will appear in the video portion of my article that is to be published in the Journal of Visualized Experiments in May 2011.

Please give Mr. Callahan's application very strong and serious consideration.

Sincerely,



C.R. Youngs, PhD
Associate Professor