

August 23, 2005

Letter of Reference for Peter Haiman, Ph.D.

I am pleased to provide a letter of reference for Dr. Haiman. I have known him since 1968 . At that time I was employed by Family Service of Cleveland to provide administrative oversight for the grant the agency had received from the Head Start Bureau , HHS, to develop, implement and oversee a new program thrust, called Parent and Child Centers. This new program direction was breaking new ground to provide comprehensive services to children from 6 months to Head Start age, with heavy involvement of the total family. Thirty three centers were funded nationally as Demonstration Projects.

As we began to assemble a staff that would be completely new to the agency, the name of Peter Haiman came up repeatedly from community leaders in the field of education, child development, social services and health. Interviewing Dr. Haiman some 37 years ago, I was impressed by the broad range of his intellect, his ability to clearly conceptualize ideas, his intense and sincere commitment to services for the children and the total family. Above all, his genuine warmth as an individual came through. I have treasured his friendship over the ensuing years although our employment paths diverged many years ago.

He was the first person employed for the demonstration project. He rapidly became our "resident genius." We learned from him the pluses and minus of the groundbreaking parent and child center concept that he developed on a small scale at Western Reserve (now Case Western Reserve University.) His thinking and conceptualizations were seminal for the national development of this new Head Start program initiative. With all due modesty, I share the fact that we in Cleveland were the first Parent and Child Center to become fully operational. With Dr. Haiman as Educational Director , Richard Johnson as Director and the rest of the quality staff, the Center became a focal location for staff from other cities as well as University personnel from all over the country to visit, learn and observe. (Mr. Johnson subsequently was chosen to head the Parent and Child Center programs in the Head Start Bureau in Washington.)

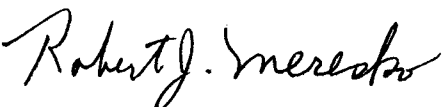
In those early days, we observed Dr. Haiman's genuine ability to interact with parents of all levels of ability and background, with members of the staff from various professional disciplines, with visiting University Professors who came to the Center, as well as with the infants and children whose development was the focal point of the demonstration project. He had the capacity to recognize problems in their early stages and to work toward solving those problems in a timely and effective fashion. He was always a team player concerned about the ideas of others and their participation in decision making.

His groundbreaking work on the national standards for the Head Start program

cannot be minimized. As I became a National Consultant for Head Start and Parent and Child Centers in 1970, I was able to see the wide- ranging effects of Dr. Haiman's thinking and creative ideas in the many programs that I dealt with over the years in all areas of the United States.

Others who were concerned with children and their parents recognized Dr. Haiman's expertise. Because of his work, he was chosen to be a member of President Clinton's People to People Ambassador program to Cuba in February 2001.

Peter Haiman is a man of great intellect, an empowering teacher, an effective communicator, a wonderful and warm human being. I am pleased to count him one of my friends of long years' standing.



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