

To whom it may concern:

In our very first meeting as a senior staff at the Daily Nebraskan in March 2015, we made a list of goals. We decided we wanted to get 700,000 hits on our website in the first six months, which would have been a 15 percent increase from the previous year.

Then, Josh Kelly, the sports editor at the time, suggested we just shoot for 1 million.

There was a chuckle around the table, but Josh was serious. 1 million hits. We could do it, he insisted.

“If we get 1 million hits,” I told him, “you can be editor-in-chief for a day.”

Sure enough, I was wrong, thanks in part to Josh pushing the staff and instilling an attitude of enthusiasm in the newsroom. And sure enough, one night in January, Josh sat at my desk and ran the newsroom for a night.

And the truth is, he deserved it. And I’m not sure I would have trusted anyone else at the helm more than Josh, truth be told.

No matter the position, I would extend my highest recommendation for Josh.

I can’t say enough about Josh’s determination, passion and ability to work with people. You will be hard pressed to find someone more determined and more passionate for people. He made the Daily Nebraskan better just by showing up every day, and helped lead his section to becoming the most read section of the Fall 2015 semester by constantly encouraging writers to write good, in-depth stories.

Josh thinks about 16 people before himself, and has no problem taking the back seat in terms of credit for a team project. Josh was invaluable as an editor. His focus was always on the project or task on hand. His ability to connect with others first was imperative in terms of pushing the newspaper forward. Josh’s empathy, kindness and ability to connect with everyone he works with, or for, makes him a perfect candidate in my eyes.

I have no doubt Josh will excel in anything you task him with. At this point, he’s done it all, and hungry to make everyone around him proud. When you give him a challenge, he’ll most likely shoot for something even higher.

Like 1 million hits instead of 700,000.

Respectfully,
Chris Heady
Former Daily Nebraskan editor-in-chief