

June 17, 2008,

I am excited to write this reference letter for John Parsons.

As the News Director for Lakeland Public Television, I have hired and worked with many reporters and anchors over the past ten years. John Parsons proved to be one of our elite reporters over that time.

I first met John in 2003 when he took one of the TV classes I teach at Bemidji State University. He earned an "A" in that class. His inquisitiveness and enthusiasm for the field of journalism was obvious. At that same time, John began volunteering at our station to learn more about the business. He was a dedicated volunteer for us for the next three years. A part-time position opened up at our station in 2006, and I hired John to fill that role. In 2007 I promoted John to a full-time reporter position and in 2008 I promoted him to assignment editor.

John has several characteristics that make him special. Many people admire his work ethic. He always puts in extra effort to make sure he has every angle covered in his stories. He never looks for the easy way to do things. He looks for the best way to do things. He also has the ability to decipher a complex story and make it easy for viewers to understand. John earned the respect of many throughout our community with his thorough, fair presentation of his stories. Recently John won an award at the Northwest Broadcast News Association for his coverage of a pipeline fire.

John has refined his skills as an editor and shooter throughout the years and is outstanding in both areas. He is very easy going and got along with everybody at our station

I have no doubts John will excel in whatever he pursues.

If you have any other questions feel free to contact me at 1-218-333-3012

Sincerely,

Dennis Weimann
Lakeland PTV News Director