



## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

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Fall 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of reference for Pinfan Zhu, who successfully defended his dissertation in August 2004 and who will receive the Ph.D. in Technical Communication at Texas Tech University commencement ceremonies in December 2004.

Pinfan Zhu is a remarkable person with many excellent qualities. A native speaker of Chinese, he is entirely fluent in all aspects of written and oral English. A mature person, he is experienced as a teacher and as a translator. A kind and delightful person, he has a cheerful demeanor and a work ethic that is second to none. It has been my pleasure to serve on his dissertation committee, and he was previously a student in one of my graduate linguistics classes, so I have had the opportunity to observe him as he has moved through the graduate program in the English Department at Texas Tech University. On the basis of various academic interactions over a period of four years, I strongly recommend Pinfan Zhu for any academic or other professional position that would make use of his skills as a teacher and/or as a technical writer. He is a highly motivated person, and I am confident that he will excel in any environment.

The difficulty of Pinfan Zhu's chosen course of study cannot be overemphasized. Not only did he undertake a doctoral program in the United States, a monumental task for anyone and an extremely challenging task for someone in another country, but he chose to study English. Not only did he choose to study English, but he decided to specialize in Technical Communication, a very difficult subject for a non-native speaker. Not only did he specialize in Technical Communication, but he decided to draw into his dissertation project complex aspects of linguistics, literature, science, cross-cultural communication, translation, web design, and advanced topics in rhetoric in a most interesting and insightful study. He was uniquely qualified to conduct the study that formed his excellent dissertation, and he will bring his unique qualifications to any academic or professional position.

Pinfan Zhu has received very high teaching evaluations from students in both composition and technical communication. While Texas Tech is classified as a Research I university, we value teaching, and our students expect and demand excellence in the classroom. Moreover, frankly, our student population is not highly diverse, and our students can be critical of international or foreign-born instructors. Through the quality

