



**NORTHERN
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5 November 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer my strongest recommendation for Dr. Walter “Wally” Parks. We have been friends and colleagues for over a decade. I have watched with great admiration as he conducted his Wind Ensemble at the Music for All National Concert Band Festival and the Illinois State Convention. I have had the pleasure of watching him rehearse the Wind Ensemble, Marching Band and Steel Band at Metamora on numerous occasions, and have served as a guest conductor many times as well. In every case, I have found Dr. Parks to be an outstanding conductor and educator. His ensembles are consistently well prepared, and attentive and responsive in rehearsal.

Dr. Parks would be an outstanding addition to any university faculty. He has a wealth of experience and knowledge from which to draw. His expertise on the podium qualifies him to conduct a wide variety of ensembles, while his skill in the classroom and experience as a master teacher and mentor to young teachers qualifies him to teach courses in the music education curriculum or supervise student teachers. Although he holds himself and his students to a high standard of musical excellence, he does so in an affable, friendly manner. Dr. Parks would be an outstanding ambassador for a collegiate music department, both from his strong interpersonal skills and his consistent record of substantial achievement.

I would be happy to elaborate on his credentials at any time. Feel free to contact me via cell phone at 630-723-8951 or via email at tbough@niu.edu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Bough
Conductor, NIU Wind Symphony
Director of Athletic Bands

Dr. Thomas Bough
Northern Illinois University
Director of Athletic Bands
Conductor, NIU Wind Symphony