

1 August 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

I have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Trey Shirley in various capacities over the course of my tenure as the Director of Experiential Learning at Abilene Christian University. In every interaction with Dr. Shirley, he has exhibited the highest level of professionalism, competency, and responsibility. Additionally, and most significantly, he embodies the mission of ACU in the way he cares for students.

I had the privilege of working alongside Dr. Shirley on the Integrated Spiritual Formation Plan committee during the 2019-2020 academic year. He was also a part of the 2020 Experiential Learning Development Program, which I facilitated. In both those efforts, Dr. Shirley exhibited thoughtfulness and creativity as he worked to find ways to better serve our students.

Dr. Shirley showcased his competency and professionalism most clearly when I contracted him to develop a website for the ACU Center for Careers and Experiential Learning. I was tasked to create a homepage for ACCEL, as well as pages for ACU Study Abroad, Career Center, Halbert Center for Missions and Global Service, and Undergraduate Research. Being new to my position and not having experience in designing websites, I knew I needed someone who had skills and experience in web design and knew the context of ACU branding and marketing. Dr. Shirley was the perfect person for the job.

One of the challenges Dr. Shirley faced was working with the various directors of the offices in ACCEL. Each person had particular needs and desires for their respective pages. However, we also needed some continuity of style and aesthetic between the various pages. Dr. Shirley worked effectively with all the directors, accommodating their specific requests, while developing a cohesive look across all the pages. Everyone in ACCEL was extremely pleased with his work.

It is clear through my various engagements with Dr. Shirley that he is exactly the kind of faculty member ACU desires and is proficient and effective as a design professional. He has proven to be a competent and hardworking leader, team member, professional, and teacher. Furthermore, he models for faculty, staff, and students what it means to follow Jesus within the vocation of Christian higher education.

Sincerely,



Derran Reese  
Director of Experiential Learning  
Abilene Christian University  
derran.reese@acu.edu