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To Whom it May Concern,

My desire as a college instructor is to provide students with unique experiences during their university careers. So when I had the opportunity to invite Spook Handy to class, I jumped at the chance. My courses in the Departments of English and American Studies on music and cultural history have been enhanced by collaborating with Spook, and I would recommend him for any and all opportunities to engage students at Rutgers University.

It has been my privilege to work with Spook for several years. He has attended my classes to lecture on the history of folk music and the cultural importance of musicians like Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. He joined in discussions of 20th and 21st century political issues ranging from the battle for Civil Rights to environmental conservation. And he helped educate students about getting active in organizations campaigning for social justice in New Brunswick. He also served as an ambassador of the folk music tradition, giving intimate performances and exposing students to an artform unfortunately overlooked by many young people. In addition, Spook was kind enough to work with students outside the conventional classroom format by participating in songwriting and performance workshops.

Spook Handy is a model classroom collaborator and a pillar of the New Brunswick community. Rutgers will continue to benefit from his wealth of knowledge and talent.

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