

To The Search Committee:

I would like to recommend Basem Hassan for the open position at your institution.

I had the pleasure of observing Basem's performance as a tenure track Instructor taking charge of the Graphic Design department at Brookdale Community College. The program's curriculum was in need of updating to bring it current with industry standards. Basem was selected based on a myriad of exceptional qualifications.

In Basem's first semester he was given the daunting task of performing the 5-year department review for Middle States Accreditation. His experience in the business world was evident in his thorough research, analysis, and reporting for completing all necessary accreditation modules. He was eager to work on multiple college committees and completed successful appointments to Brookdale's Technology & Efficiency Committee as part of the college's jubilee self-analysis alongside the Promotion Committee reviewing faculty promotion packets, something a non-tenured faculty is rarely appointed to. Simultaneously, Basem began reaching out across departments creating interdisciplinary projects between majors such as Interior Design, Painting, and English.

Basem has continuously grown the program adding multiple sections and a summer program by visiting area high schools to give talks about careers in design and hosting interactive design workshops for the Monmouth County Teen Arts Festival. His enrollment grew quickly with courses hitting capacity requiring additional sections and summer sessions added to handle the large waitlist. There was also a marked increase in students completing graduation with either the A.A. Degree or A.A.S. Degree.

Basem is inherently innovative and technologically savvy. He submitted to and was awarded Perkin's Grant funding to modernize his department with new equipment. This was used to develop the Graphic Design department into a true artist's printmaking studio with both traditional and modern technologies. Basem worked to align the new program with his counterpart at Georgian Court University contributing to Brookdale's articulation agreement between the two schools.

I recommend Basem without reservation. Basem brings with him a dedicated passion for education adapting naturally to the unique challenges of working with the diversity of students present in a community college. He will be a strong member of your faculty bringing to your program the same innovation, expertise, and successes he put in place while directing the Graphic Design program at Brookdale Community College.

Dr. Dianna Philips
President, Harford Community College