To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Tchet Dereic Dorman since 2010, at which time we both were active in the Philadelphia Trainers’ Collaborative, a monthly skill share for educators, trainers, and facilitators. At the time, I was struck by Tchet’s excitement of learning new facilitation skills and thinking about ways to incorporate them in diversity work. Also, I was impressed with Tchet’s facilitation of the Collaborative to create space for all members to express their opinions in regard to the group’s structure. I have learned that this is a strength of Tchet’s and that he is continually able to hold space for all people’s voices.

Since 2011, Tchet and I have collaborated on several projects together. We have co-facilitated a dialogue series for African-Americans and Jews and trained high school educators to acknowledge diversity issues in their schools. I hold Tchet’s work in high regard because of his skill in dialogue about their differences, conflicts, and similarities. Tchet motivates others to engage in authentic dialogue by sharing enough of himself to build trust with participants, while also ensuring that participants are the center of his work.

I have had the pleasure of facilitating several diversity dialogues with Tchet and am always impressed with his dedication and devotion to the work and his ability to take critique and feedback from his co-facilitators. Tchet works hard and always creates outlines for trainings for his facilitation team ahead of time. Even with all this preparation, Tchet is always open to discussing new ideas or ways of presenting the material.

As part of the dialogue work, it is critical to personally be aware of biases and prejudices that each facilitator holds. Tchet has helped me to explore my own opinions, thoughts, biases and prejudices. Whenever we prepare for a new training, Tchet ensures that co-facilitators have awareness of ways participants’ comments or actions could trigger biased reactions so that we can support each other and be more accountable to participants. Tchet has therefore allowed for his co-facilitators to feel supported and at the same time ask for their support.

I believe that Tchet’s hard work and dedication to building a more just society through individual and group dialogue has had a strong impact on many participants as well as co-facilitators like me. With Tchet’s support, I have become a better facilitator as there is space to be honest about my personal biases. Tchet has the gift of being able to connect with many people and therefore work with diverse groups. And through working with Tchet I have become a more confident and secure trainer and better equipped to facilitate diverse audiences.
Tchet is a superb candidate and a gifted diversity trainer. He will motivate people to engage themselves fully in dialogues.

Sincerely,

Hillary S. Blecker
Partner, The Blue Door Group