

October 26, 2008

Nancy Ferguson
Graduate Program Coordinator
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SUBJECT: Recommendation for Michael J. Fagel, Ph.D., CEM

It is a privilege to provide a letter in support of Dr. Michael Fagel's application to teach in the Northwestern University Summer Program in Homeland Security. Mike has over 30 years of experience in public safety, law enforcement, EMS, Fire Rescue and emergency management, as well as OSHA safety. He has taught courses in these topics since the mid 1980's and is currently a security analyst for several federal agencies on weapons of mass destruction, Agro-Terrorism, emergency planning, and public health. He served at the World Trade Center in 2001 as a safety officer, as well as at the Oklahoma City Bombing in 1995 as an emergency systems briefer and safety officer. He has traveled extensively in the US and middle-east on emergency planning. He worked at FEMA for over ten years, as well as on a local fire rescue department for 25 years.

Mike currently is a Special Term Appointee (a part-time position) in the Infrastructure Assurance Center (IAC) at Argonne National Laboratory. The IAC conducts technical work for the Department of Homeland Security and other Federal organizations focused on assuring the security and reliability of critical infrastructure and key resources that are threatened with disruption from natural events, accidents, or deliberate acts such as terrorist attacks. The impacts of such disruptions — including impacts to human health and safety, the economy, and national security — must be understood for effective risk management. Mike provides expertise across the entire preparedness spectrum: to prevent, protect, respond to, and recover from all hazards, including conventional, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear terrorism.

I have known Mike for the past five years and have directly observed his technical expertise, leadership skills, professional demeanor, and interaction with both peers and government sponsors. He excels in all of these areas and has a substantial and distinguished record of achievement, particularly as a teacher/trainer. On the basis of my experience and interaction with Mike, his demonstrated ability to communicate complex material, his dedication and accomplishments in meeting important homeland security needs, and his peer recognition, I believe that Dr. Fagel would be an excellent member of the Summer Program faculty.

Sincerely,

James Peerenboom

James P. Peerenboom, Ph.D.
Director
Infrastructure Assurance Center