

## Reference Letter for Penny Ahlstrom

February 19, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to provide this reference for Penny Ahlstrom, whom I had the opportunity to teach in both COMP3095 (Enterprise Java Microservices Development) **and** COMP2139 (Web Application Development).

Across both courses, Penny consistently demonstrated strong technical ability, intellectual curiosity, and a genuine commitment to mastering complex concepts. In COMP3095, she worked with advanced topics including Spring Boot microservices architecture, inter-service communication, Docker containerization, database integration (PostgreSQL and MongoDB), API Gateway configuration, authentication mechanisms, and integration testing. She approached these topics with focus and determination, steadily building both her confidence and technical competence.

In COMP2139, which emphasized structured web application development using ASP.NET and modern architectural patterns, Penny again distinguished herself through disciplined implementation and thoughtful problem-solving. She demonstrated a solid understanding of application structure, data flow, and best practices in web development.

What particularly stood out across both courses was her ability to connect theory to practical implementation. Penny was not content with simply completing assignments; she sought to understand the underlying architecture and the reasoning behind each design decision. This depth of engagement is a strong indicator of long-term professional growth.

Penny also demonstrated professionalism in her communication and collaboration. She asked thoughtful questions, appropriately referenced course materials, and showed initiative in leveraging documentation and resources to solve problems independently. Her work ethic reflects both maturity and accountability.

Based on my experience teaching her in multiple courses, I am confident that Penny will bring strong analytical skills, technical capability, and a positive, reliable work ethic to any team or project she joins. I recommend her without hesitation.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

*Sergio Santilli*

Sergio Santilli  
Manager, Application Development  
University of Toronto Scarborough  
Professor, George Brown College  
