

To whom it may concern,

I've known Jesse Peplinski for years through [Hack Upstate](#), the organization he's helped lead in Syracuse. I founded Hack Upstate in 2013 to build Upstate NY's tech community, and Jesse stepped up to carry it forward in 2018 — including directing [Careers in Code](#), the coding bootcamp we launched to help combat poverty in Central New York. He's put over 100 students through that program.

What stands out about Jesse isn't just that he can build software — it's how he thinks. He has a rare ability to translate complex technical concepts to people who aren't engineers, which is something you can't really teach. I've watched him do it with students who came in with zero background and left with marketable skills and jobs.

I've also watched his thinking evolve around AI over the years. He's living in it, building with it every day, and asking the right questions. The way he talks about what Claude Code has unlocked for him reminded me of how early Bitcoin engineers talked about what they were building.

The Forward Deployed Engineer role at Anthropic is seemingly a great match for his specific combination of skills: he builds production software, he teaches, and he genuinely cares about making technology useful for people who haven't caught up to what's possible yet.

I've been incredibly fortunate to work closely over the years. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to provide him with recommendation, and believe he'd be an excellent fit for Anthropic's Forward Deployed Engineering role.

— [Doug Crescenzi](#)

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