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ADMINISTRATION

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*"Educating the next  
generation of science and  
medical professionals"*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Shannon Waite. I worked with Shannon at Benjamin Carson High School of Science and Medicine since she started her teaching career, and I witnessed tremendous growth in her as an educator over those years. Her confidence in her abilities has grown significantly. She is strategic in the development of her curriculum as she has fully embraced the concept of data-driven instruction and always backwards plans her units of instruction based on the standards and her students' data. Her daily lessons are thoughtfully designed to teach the standards through the gradual release of responsibility teaching model while also enlisting community members to contribute to students' learning and bringing the content alive for our kids. Just one example of this is a unit of study she developed in which her sophomore English students explored the concept of freedom. After numerous readings, speakers, discussions, and more, the students began writing pieces where they used this newfound knowledge and expanded perspective to explore their own ideas of freedom. Ultimately, students' work was published in an anthology that was sold at a local bookstore, kicked off with a book launch party where students and their families attended and listening to discussions of the project and student readings of their pieces. This particular unit of study has drawn an enormous amount of media attention. She has been featured on Fox2 News, CW50, ABC, and local radio shows, which has been great publicity for her, her students, and our school.

In addition to the hard work she puts in for her classes and students, Shannon has done quite a bit of work in the realm of professional development. She has led learning sessions at our school for staff and served as a presenter at various state and national conferences. These platforms have given her the opportunity to share her personal experiences and proven strategies for facilitating quality learning and given her exposure to working with adult learners. Beyond leading learning experiences, Shannon has served on planning and curriculum development teams with colleagues at our school and at the district level where she was a partner in the learning with other professionals.

Shannon is a true team player. She is easy to talk to, easy to work with, and has a collegial relationship with all members of our staff. In addition to her main job as an English teacher at our school, she was our yearbook advisor, managed the school's website, and ran our creative writing club. She was a pleasure to work with. I believe her professional skill set as well as her positive personality and love for reading and writing make her an outstanding candidate for this position.

Sincerely,

Kristen Maher  
ELA Master Teacher