

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
33 E. CONGRESS PKWY
CHICAGO, IL 60605 1996
312 369 8140

WWW.COLUM.EDU

March 25, 2016

Letter of Recommendation for Melissa McBride

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of my former graduate student, Melissa McBride. Ms. McBride has been in the masters degree program in art education at Columbia College Chicago for the past two years, and during this period of time I have observed Melissa in areas that reflect her preparation and skills to become a successful art educator and educational leader.

Melissa has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art with a minor in Business Administration from the University of Miami at Coral Gables, FL. Ms. McBride is a talented and committed art educator who advocates for the profession. She was a Co-President of the IAEA/NAEA Columbia College Student Chapter of Art Educators on our campus in 2014-15. Melissa has been an outstanding student in the Columbia College Chicago art education program. She balanced her full-time job with her full-time graduate work, and she organized numerous events and activities for the student chapter. Melissa was part of a team that was instrumental in organizing our yearly graduate art exhibition her first year in graduate school. Melissa also partnered with the Art Institute of Chicago museum educators to develop an interdisciplinary workshop for "twens" integrating modular electronics and the arts in order to design and build soft-circuit puppets. I have been extremely impressed with the time and creative effort that Melissa has given to every project.

Melissa has been a driving force for her cohort. She embraced her leadership role early in her coursework at Columbia. Her peers have always supported her, and very often, her opinion and direction has been pivotal in the cohesiveness of her group. Melissa is truly a diplomat; she has a very gentle approach, yet she is able to see the success of the entire group as the main goal. I appreciated her confident leadership throughout her graduate years.

During her student teaching experiences at both the elementary and high school levels her cooperating teachers have responded to her college supervisor with glowing reports of her work with students, her ability to plan for diverse learners and her collegial approach in her schools. Melissa's student teaching assessments reflect a high-achieving candidate who is prepared to fulfill the duties of a professional art educator.

Melissa is one of those unique individuals who are "born to teach." She will be a valuable asset to any school district and faculty. She has tremendous potential as an art educator, and she will truly make a difference in the lives of her students. I am honored that she is joining the profession as an art educator, and I look forward to her success in this career.

Sincerely,



Dr. Anne L. Becker Ed.D
Past President of the Illinois Art Education Association
Past Director of Art Education, Columbia College Chicago
anzebe@comcast.net



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