

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

600 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60605 1996  
312 663 1600  
[WWW.COLUM.EDU](http://WWW.COLUM.EDU)

March 25, 2016

To whom it may concern,

I am thrilled to have this opportunity to write on behalf of Melissa McBride. I hope to express how awed I am by her talents and how confident I am in recommending her.

I have known Melissa since her start in our Masters of Teaching Program in visual arts education and have had the pleasure of leading her through several courses along her way to graduation. From the very beginning, her keen intelligence, attention to detail, and depth of understanding were apparent. To say she came to us fully formed – and required just a few finishing touches – is to understate her vast capacities.

Melissa arrived in our program with a substantial background in literacy, schools, studio skills, volunteerism, leadership, and, most importantly, life. Having experienced many facets of interest, it was evident that she had decided upon art education as her focus, and she pursued that end with diligence and commitment. Her work was consistently impeccable and she collaborated with and supported members of her cohort with patience and generosity.

The best was yet to come. All this (academic) work became secondary once I had the chance to watch her teach.

Acutely aware of Melissa's ability to conceive lessons that honor both standards and needs specific to the students before her, I was astonished by her facility to bring her lessons to fruition. Students are 'hooked' by engaging and challenging concepts, made accessible by leading them through a meticulous scaffold of skills. With a confident and low-key demeanor, individual students are made to feel supported and undaunted as they stretch their abilities beyond personal expectations – a testament to Melissa's gifts as a teacher. They work for her and strive for excellence. What more can be asked?

In the role of colleague, I can attest to Melissa's concern that all succeed. She is a team player who will contribute greatly to the learning community wise enough to bring her on board. It is with the most heartfelt conviction that I recommend Melissa McBride. She will not disappoint.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Gold, adjunct professor

create...  
change

Columbia   
COLLEGE CHICAGO