



January 17, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

It's with great pleasure I write this recommendation for Deborah Johnston whom I have known for two years in my capacity as Director of Global Education at Lakeside School.

Deb, as she goes by among colleagues, is a respected and popular faculty member, not only in the history department. Besides her very friendly demeanor, Deb exhibits exceptional patience with both students and colleagues, and she always has time to spare to support and advise a struggling learner, students as well as new faculty. As the Chair of the History Department, Deb prioritized globalizing the curriculum by, for example, redesigning the World History courses. She introduced and has continued to promote and ensure that all sophomore students participate in the Model United Nations (MUN) day each year. She takes great care in designating students as particular country representatives to match their global experience, should they have participated –or plan to- in one of the GSL trips (see below). She is also the volunteer faculty advisor for the MUN student club.

This recommendation touches only on a few of Deb's many extraordinary skills and qualifications, in particularly her dedication and passion for instilling awareness, appreciation and understanding of global issues and cultures in our student and faculty bodies. One of Lakeside School's signature co-curricular programs is the Global Service Learning program (GSL) which offers students from grade 6th through high school a cultural and service learning immersion experience in mostly developing countries. Deb was one of the faculty members on the Global Think Tank committee which looked at how global education occurs at Lakeside. Besides being a spokesperson for the program, Deborah has also successfully led the 8th grade Costa Rica trip (2 weeks duration) and the upper school Senegal trip (4 weeks). The trip leader position is competitive; the bulk of the trip leaders' work falls in the summer when most faculty prefer to be away from students and school; and trip leaders are expected to meet and communicate with students and parents throughout the pre-trip phase, spanning from fall to spring. The position requires the leader to contribute and participate in evening meetings with parents and students beginning eight months before the actual trip. Deb possesses all of the qualities I look for in trip leaders: enthusiasm for global learning and cultural immersion; tolerance for ambiguity; adaptability; confidence and integrity; attention to health and safety issues.

Deborah has an international mindset and complemented with a deep knowledge of her academic field and a high level of creativity, she has enriched the on campus curriculum in ways that allow students to integrate their GSL experience into their classroom work. One can always approach Deb for ideas and a rich discussion about all things educational.



This school year, Deb is also the Lakeside School World Affairs Fellow, a school sponsored volunteer position which requires meetings and presentations outside of regular school hours. I mention this as an example of two of Deb's attributes: her endless interest in learning and contributing to advancing global education.

In my long career in global education I have come into contact with teachers from around the world. Deborah stands out as one of the most dedicated and hardworking teachers I know.

I welcome an email or phone call, should you have additional questions about Deborah's qualifications.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Blessing

Director of Global Education

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