

“ Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence. ” Abigail Adams ❧

Subject: Recommendation for Mrs. Shannon Wilson

December 4, 2019

I have worked with Mrs. Shannon Wilson in Colorado charter schools over the last ten years, and I can readily recommend her for the position of principal at Liberty Tree Academy. She has clearly demonstrated her passion for children, her commitment to high standards in both academics and character education, and her unflagging efforts to provide what is best for children and the staff. I have also been able to observe first-hand her continued growth as a leader, combining courage and diligence in addressing the myriad of situations and details that arise in school administration and leadership.

During the first year of operation in the spring of 2019, I had a number of opportunities to work with Mrs. Wilson in her capacity as academic dean at Liberty Tree Academy. I was immediately impressed by the positive, orderly school atmosphere at LTA that was testimony to *her* unflagging work with the teachers, especially notable given the “less than ideal” physical space LTA was using. In exemplary fashion, Mrs. Wilson modeled cheerful flexibility and a “can-do” attitude that are essential in the pioneering stages of a new charter school. Because of the changes in administrative leadership during the year, she increasingly took on more duties and responsibilities as the year progressed, looking proactively to solve upcoming problems. It is no surprise to me that LTA students were able to demonstrate high levels of achievement even in the first year of operation – no small feat.

Mrs. Wilson has many years of background in teaching and participating in multiple levels of leadership at a charter school. Professional credibility for charter school leaders is *essential*, and she has well-seasoned experience and knowledge in building systems for an effective classroom and helping new staff learn those strategies and keep them in place.

- She is familiar with an array of intentional, highly-correlated methodologies, positive classroom procedures essential to motivating students, and necessary educational “scaffolding” that enhances student mastery and success.
- Mrs. Wilson participated regularly in the JICES leadership meetings and yearly strategic planning sessions. She was involved in problem-solving for school-wide concerns and supporting the school to maintain a clear focus on our mission and vision in staff development.

During the first pioneering phase at LTA, Mrs. Wilson has amply demonstrated the essential qualities for providing school leadership as well as giving strong evidence of her own commitment to continue building her professional acumen. Good leaders seek expert input and welcome experienced counsel: she consistently did this in her work with students and staff at JICES, and at LTA she has continued to reach out to administrative leadership at the district and from her own network of charter school leaders. I have personally heard high commendation about her from D-49 leaders.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions that you have.

Elizabeth Berg, Educational Consultant
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