To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you on behalf of Tara Richardson. I have had the pleasure of working with her for the past two years at The Bridge Alternative High School in Brighton. Tara is an extraordinary person, as well as an exceptional social worker.

Tara is one of the greatest resources that both teachers and students have at our school. As a classroom teacher, I can go to her any time for advice on fostering cooperation and caring in my classroom. She conducts peace circles as a form of restorative justice for classes that are struggling to get along or achieve their goals, and she also has great ideas for adapting lessons and activities for students with special needs. She also has a relentlessly optimistic outlook that keeps others around her positive. She is great for the morale and climate among the staff of the school.

Tara is also an incredible help to students. She develops a remarkable rapport with students, especially those who are at risk. Students who are struggling with difficult issues feel uniquely comfortable talking to her and opening up about their problems. They trust her to help them, and to take care of them. Her nurturing personality helps her to talk them through their problems and to help process their emotions.

At the same time, Tara also sets clear boundaries and expectations for the students she works with. For students who see her regularly, she uses check-in and check-out sheets to help keep students on track throughout the day. She keeps in regular contact with the parents of students who come to see her, and she makes her role as a social worker very clear to students. I believe that her clear boundaries and expectations help students to trust her even more.

In addition to her role in counseling both staff and students, Tara also organizes many special events at The Bridge. She targets big days for classroom push-in talks, such as International Human Rights Day and World Cancer Awareness Day. She also organizes school assemblies, and mentors our school’s peer leader group. She even puts together the school’s annual college and career day. Tara goes above and beyond other staff to foster a positive school climate.

I would recommend Tara for a position with your school or district without reserve. She is kind, caring, and professional all at once. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me personally.

Sincerely,

Kristin E. Smith

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