



June 26, 2008

To whom it may concern,

It is with distinct pleasure and enthusiasm that I supply Michelle C. Bussolotti with a letter of professional support. I have worked with Michelle in several capacities for a number of years and regard her as one of the most intelligent and motivated social services practitioners I've ever met.

Michelle is a wonderful example of how hard work, diligence, and a desire to better the lives of others results in academic and career achievement. Having received a bachelors degree in Social Work from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2002, her outstanding transcript and academic honors stand on their own merits. In the fall of 2002 she was appointed Community Education Coordinator of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut, a position she would hold with distinction for the next five years. In Spring 2008, Michelle graduated from the University of Connecticut with a masters degree in Social Work, a clear reflection of her interest in educational challenges as well as her commitment to personal and professional growth.

I got to know Michelle during her tenure at the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut. Michelle was a frequent guest lecturer in my family studies classes at Mitchell College and spoke on a range of topics, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and gender equity issues. More recently, Michelle serves on Mitchell's Advisory Council for our Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies Departments, an important committee designed to foster connections between the College and social services community. In all of her capacities, I have been impressed with the quantity and quality of Michelle's knowledge base and the degree of her intellectual engagement with the material she presents. Michelle is an excellent educator and I for one wish that I could teach with so little fuss. Classroom evaluations of Michelle are always exemplary, and students regularly applaud her enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment. Regarding her contributions as a member of our Advisory Council, Michelle has proven to be invaluable. Among other areas, she keeps us abreast of current developments in the field of women's studies and remaining culturally sensitive to the wide range of populations the College serves.

As far as personal characteristics are concerned, you won't meet a finer individual. Michelle is kind and sensitive to the needs of others, and her understanding of the dynamics attached to human behavior is immense. She willingly and cheerfully gives of herself toward whatever assignment is at hand, and she is always interested in the welfare and dignity of those around her. In short, she is a decent, reasonable, and unassuming person, the proverbial team player and motivator. Moreover, she relates beautifully toward people of all ages, and is sincere and fair in her dealings with all. I recommend Michelle C. Bussolotti without reservation and with the greatest confidence that she will have a strong positive impact on your program. Take her on. You won't be disappointed and you certainly won't find better.

Regards,

Dr. Jeffrey S. Turner, Professor
Human Development & Family Studies Program