



EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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October 22, 2010

To whom it may concern:

I know Michelle Bussolotti from her participation in the social work major at Eastern Connecticut State University where she received her BSW degree in May, 2002. I have followed her career as she continued on to earn a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work in 2008 and as she has gained impressive experience with program design, public education, and community organization.

Ms. Bussolotti was an outstanding student, graduating from Eastern Magna Cum Laude with a grade point average of 3.85. Personally she was a pleasure to work with, the kind of student every professor loves to have in class. She was fully invested in learning and the kind of participant in class discussions and activities whose participation enriched the learning of the entire class. Her written and oral communication skills are excellent. As an undergraduate she was interested in women's issues and, in pursuit of this interest, completed both a junior year field project and her 400 hour senior year internship at the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut. The junior year project was especially interesting. Michelle worked with a small group of social work students to organize and publicize the Hairdresser Project, a luncheon workshop for hairdressers on domestic violence, enlisting them as referral sources for the Women's Center domestic violence services. Needless to say, she received A's for her practice experiences but, more important, she received the highest compliment available to our students from their field work agencies, employment by her field agency following graduation.

Ms. Bussolotti could have been accepted by any graduate school following graduation from Eastern but wanted additional practical experience before going on for her master's degree. She accepted employment at the Women's Center where she continued to be an energetic, creative community educator and advocate for women. Her efforts extended beyond the confines of her agency including outreach to both secondary schools and colleges, other social service agencies, and community groups. She also ran education/treatment groups for women at the York correctional institution.

I predict that Ms. Bussolotti's personal and academic attributes will enable her to succeed in whatever direction she chooses to pursue. While her primary focus up to now has been on women's issues, I have no doubt about her ability to expand into other areas of interest. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is desired.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Andrew T. Nilsson".

Andrew T. Nilsson, Ph.D., LCSW
Professor, Social Work Program Coordinator
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and
Social Work