

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION ON BEHALF OF PAULA BENNER

November 30, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Over the past eleven years, I have had the good fortune of knowing and working with Paula Benner. Paula and I were colleagues for many years at St. Francis Xavier School in Philadelphia where Paula served as the school's Reading Specialist from 2007 to 2015. As the director of the school's character development program, I often consulted with Paula – a professional educator who truly grasped the intersection between reading and the development of the whole child.

When I left St. Francis Xavier and took on a new position (Chief Academic Officer for CITRS – a Character Education Company) in 2012, Paula and I stayed in regular communication. I not only appreciated Paula's continued kindness and friendship, but also benefited from her professional insights and wisdom. Paula radiates a natural love for learning and is eager to share helpful ideas and resources with her colleagues. Paula illustrated her collegiality on many occasions; one such instance was when she invited me to attend a special teacher's workshop (one of the best I had ever attended) at the Philadelphia Office of Non-Public Programs.

As a Reading Specialist, Paula Benner consistently facilitated positive and engaging lessons with her students. I know this firsthand because one of my sons (Tim) was a student in Ms. Benner's reading class. Tim not only benefited from Ms. Benner's consistent kindness, but went onto to become a very good reader and honors student in high school. In addition to teaching her students with enthusiasm, Paula maintained a highly organized collection of books on a wide range of topics. Her classroom was tidy, clean, and inviting – a place that naturally fostered a love of learning and books.

Paula appreciates and models what high-character leadership looks like. At the same time, she is very creative and keeps her students actively engaged in books and stories. As such, Paula serves as an excellent example for both her students and her colleagues.

With this letter, I offer Paula Benner my highest personal and professional recommendation. In hiring Paula Benner above her peers, you will find a highly dedicated, caring, kind, professional, honorable, and competent Reading Specialist and Educator on your staff.

If you should have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me on my cell phone (856-381-5411) or by email (bpetersen@citrs.org).

Sincerely,



Brendan Petersen
Chief Academic Officer
CITRS – www.citrs.org