



School of Information Studies
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

April 29, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with sincere pleasure that I recommend Heather Turner for a position of teacher-librarian in your district. I have known Heather as both a student in my graduate-level class in the school media program at the School of Information Studies and as a graduate assistant at Syracuse University's Center for Digital Literacy.

As a student in my course "Integrating Motivation & Information Literacy," Heather distinguished herself as one of the most outstanding students in the class. One of the assignments required students to develop an online lesson using a tool called "bulLder." Designing an online lesson is a challenging task because the lesson must contain the appropriate amount and type of information succinctly and in a motivating manner. Heather developed a lesson in which students learn research skills to explore information about the seven wonders of the world. Her lesson was not only superb in her selection of information but her creative use of color, graphics and sound made the lesson highly engaging for students. Heather was able to integrate technology in ways that far surpassed the requirements of the assignment and I still use her bulLder lesson as an example for other students in my classes and at demonstrations of the bulLder tool. Her love of technology and continuous search for new and interesting ways to integrate technology with traditional literacy and information skills instruction made her a standout academically at Syracuse University and continues to do so in her professional life as a teacher-librarian.

Because of her skills, creativity, and work ethic, I invited Heather to work with me as a graduate assistant at the Center for Digital Literacy and assigned her to lead our most important and challenging project called E*LIT (Enriching Literacy through Information Technology), a project totally managed and implemented by graduate students. E*LIT included a community-based competition intended to help children (K-12) in Central New York understand the synergy between technology and literacy. Heather led her team to successfully motivate librarians in local schools to work with teachers and students to read books and develop related technology projects and organized the culminating event that included bringing both a distinguished author and over 200 participating students and staff from local elementary schools to our campus. The implementation of this project also included facilitating the judging of student submissions, obtaining prizes and culminating an author luncheon for the winning schools. Heather's excellent organizational and leadership skills resulted in a stellar event enjoyed by all.

I believe that Heather Turner has the qualities and skills needed to be successful and create a true 21st century library program. She is well-rounded in both traditional library skills and 21st century learning skills. Heather has an easy rapport with students that immediately makes them comfortable and excited about learning.

I highly recommend Heather as a teacher-librarian and urge your organization to highly consider her candidacy. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at drruth@syr.edu

Sincerely,

Ruth V. Small, Ph.D.
Laura J. & L. Douglas Meredith Professor
Director, School Media Program
Founding Director, Center for Digital Literacy