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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to offer my recommendation of Erin Threlfall, whom I have had the pleasure to know since 2002, when she entered the New York City corps of Teach For America (TFA). Working as her local TFA program director, I had the opportunity to observe Erin in a number of important roles, as a teacher, and as a school and corps leader. In each of these roles, Erin exhibited exemplary skills and sensitivity.

First, let me say that Erin is a fantastic teacher. With a 5th grade class that included a number of energetic and challenging students, she took the bull by the horns and consistently pushed them to think critically, participate wholly, and take responsibility for their success. Erin understands that a key aspect of leadership is the ability to inspire others to action, and that it takes preparation, character, boldness, and self-knowledge to effectuate that. As much as any teacher I have worked with over 15 years, Erin has each of these qualities in abundance.

Erin also showed considerable social intelligence in responding to the political reality of her school. In a school community that was often marked by bickering, blaming, and threats, Erin acted both honorably and effectively. Embodying a win-win attitude, Erin demonstrated her commitment to the goals expressed by the administration and exceeded them. As a teacher-leader among other TFA corps members, Erin spoke sincerely to the challenges they faced on the ground, yet never allowed those challenges to deter her from the goal of helping her students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

In a few words I have tried to articulate how impressed I am with Erin as a teacher and as a person. As an educator who recently become a father, I have begun to think about the kind of person I would like to teach my daughter. Erin has all the qualities I am looking for in a teacher, and if the stars align, I would like nothing better than to see her name on the door when my little girl steps into the classroom.

Feel free to contact me at (212) 618-6941 or mweinraub@pace.edu to discuss my work with Erin further.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Weinraub".

Michael Weinraub

Lecturer, Pace University School of Education