

February 6, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter recommending Lauren Barry for a science teaching position within your district. I am confident you will find Lauren to be a passionate, dedicated, and skilled educator.

I had the opportunity to serve as Lauren's beginning teacher mentor throughout her first two years teaching freshman science at Des Moines East High, a large urban 9-12 building. Lauren was welcomed into the profession with class sizes larger than her room could adequately seat, a collection of district initiatives, and an administrative team in crisis having to re-apply for their own positions. Lauren navigated these hurdles with a steady focus on student learning and a maturity superior to most of her veteran colleagues. With each challenge, Lauren has an ability to find the parts within her control and create the best atmosphere for herself and her students.

In addition to having all the intangibles and resiliency required to be a successful educator, Lauren has a superior grasp of the science curriculum. In lesson planning sessions with Lauren I was continually impressed with her ability to make connections in and across the content. This skill was put to the test as she was assigned to teach an ELL section at the last minute. Lauren immediately sought resources to help with the pedagogy of developing language skills, while leaning on her content knowledge to create meaningful lessons that maintained high standards.

Lauren Barry will be an immediate asset the teaching staff she joins in the Fall of 2020 as she returns the Chicagoland area. I would welcome the opportunity to speak further on her many qualifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walljasper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" being more prominent and the last name "Walljasper" written in a continuous, flowing script.

Tim Walljasper  
Des Moines East High School  
Math and Computer Science Teacher  
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