

To Whom it May Concern:

I am most honored to have the opportunity to write a recommendation for Cecilia Detrich for a teaching position. I have worked closely with Cecilia for over 12 years in both her teaching and community volunteering activities, and have always greatly admired her outstanding teaching qualities, and the energy and infectious enthusiasm she has for the teaching profession. But her most outstanding attribute is her amazing caring attitude towards each and every child that she teaches – both past and present. She somehow manages to stay in tune with all who have been in her classroom, and can relate to all on many levels. She is a gifted educator and inspirer of young students, far transcending the realm of art instruction.

I am the Director of an Observatory that is nearby the school where Cecilia taught art in [REDACTED] CT. She became a volunteer at the observatory so she could get personal growth and excite students in new ways, by having them combine art and science in creative new activities. Every year she has added new activities and recruited more volunteers to support her wonderfully engaging and exciting projects. To watch her thoughtful planning and execution of new activities for students across many grade levels has been a marvel. She exudes that enthusiasm that makes her students strive for excellence, and achieve it.

She was beloved and greatly respected by everyone in the [REDACTED] school system and by all of her 30 fellow volunteers in the volunteer observatory endeavor. She loves being with children, as evidenced by her running a summer day camp for young children every summer. She is extraordinarily adaptable and flexible in different environments, different groups, and changing circumstances. Watching her lead a group of 50 to 100 very young students on a hike to the observatory from her school to participate in a set of well-planned outdoor activities was a wonderful sight. Every detail of the adventure, every contingency, every task regarding safety, special needs, and all the supplies and support of her students was planned and readied with ease and grace. She has demonstrated many times that teaching is a true vocation and an avocation for her.

As a volunteer, the same passion and competence made her stand out. Amongst a group of peers with technical degrees and great credentials, she was a leader by being enthusiastic, creative, and full of common sense in all she did. She was always the first one with a hand raised to lead a challenging new task. She took a lead role in developing a truly remarkable true-scale solar system that spans six miles of New Milford, complete with fine professional signs, and wonderful passport books, which she has printed thousands of on her own time. These are examples of her passion for teaching and for exciting students in ways that go far beyond the classroom. We volunteers at the McCarthy Observatory often felt we were working for Cecilia, and were thrilled about it.

Finding time to build a wonderful telescope mirror and fine telescope that won major prizes at a huge telescope making convention on her first try at such a thing is a fine illustration of her versatility and determination. Many young students have since looked at the stars through their teacher's homemade instrument. What a wonderful role model she is!

I heartily endorse Cecilia for a teaching position. Her skills, character, professionalism and poise, and her love of children and teaching make her a most exceptional candidate.

Bob Lambert
Director and Treasurer
John J. McCarthy Observatory