



September 14, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Mallory Verick. She has served on our staff from 2012 through 2016. She has taught Grade 8 English Language Arts, Public Speaking, Social Studies, Advanced Placement (AP) Literature, AP Language, AP Seminar, Nations Capstone, and AP Research in our Secondary School. She is the Facilitator for the English Department in Secondary School and oversees our new AP Capstone Diploma program. She played a pivotal leadership role in piloting the AP Capstone Diploma at the School and in transforming the English Department. Mallory has distinguished herself as an exceptional teacher, leader and accomplished professional.

Mallory's students laud her ability to draw out their best, to inspire them and to foster their deep learning capacities. They say her classes challenge them and that she encourages them to delve into rigorous work with interest and enthusiasm. She consistently shows flexibility, a passion for learning, an advanced understanding of instructional strategies of planning and assessment, and a dynamic teaching style.

One group of AP English students told me they have to study challenging content; however, they said, "Ms. Mallory is able to turn everything into something you want to look into more. She always motivates you to learn."

As Facilitator for the English Department in Secondary School, Mallory developed the scope and sequence for the English program curriculum. She implemented Common Core standards, Understanding by Design unit planning and the AP Capstone program. She trained and mentored all new teachers in her department and led them in implementing standards-based grading and reporting.

We especially appreciate her efforts in promoting Advanced Placement course offerings and setting up the AP Capstone Diploma program at the School. (We are one of only three schools in Brazil to implement this program). She worked on a team to expand AP course offerings by creating a budget and planning the professional development. She received training in the U.S. to administer both the AP Capstone Seminar and Research courses and was instrumental in developing the curriculum for each course and teaching both for the first time at our School. It required great effort to pilot these challenging and demanding courses. The first year's results were a resounding success among students, who found the course prepares them well for college-readiness skills.

Regarding other contributions to School growth and development, Mallory served on two internal AdvancED Accreditation Committees, one for Standard 3 (Teaching and Assessing for Learning) and the other for Standard 5 (Using Results for Continuous Improvement). She was elected International Teacher Representative for three years. Her peers trust and respect her as do School Administrators, who find her to be mature, poised, and collaborative. She learned Portuguese fluently and developed

strong intercultural skills in dealing with our international community. This allowed her to reach parents in public presentations as she could switch easily between languages to address their questions.

Mallory is committed to continuing professional development. She took part in a book study with a professional learning community focusing on the book *How Teachers Can Turn Data into Action*. She used the Data Action Model to set SMART goals that targeted informational text and then measured progress made.

Mallory is one of our best teachers. She has made a real difference in the quality of education and programs in our Secondary School. We would jump at the opportunity to rehire her in the future. I am confident she will contribute with distinction in all educational projects and endeavors she undertakes.

Sincerely,



Lisa Perskie
Executive Director
School of the Nations

School of the Nations located in Brasilia, Brazil, is a private, bilingual, international school, offering academic programs for Nursery through twelfth grade. The School is accredited by the Brazilian Ministry of Education and by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS) a division of AdvancED. The values of the School are based on the moral and ethical principles of the Bahá'í Faith. Approximately 860 students from 29 nations are enrolled. The School mission is to educate students to be world citizens based upon standards of academic and ethical excellence and to develop students' capacities to know, love and serve humankind.