



Recommendation for Nicole Tucker  
for the State College School District art teacher position

14 May 2019

It is with high regards for Nicole Tucker as an inspirational, knowledgeable, artistic, experienced, and caring art teacher that I recommend her for the State College School District art teacher position. Nicole received a Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Art Education degree from The Pennsylvania State University in August 2018. I served as chair of Nicole's action research project in which she investigated her own teaching in motivating and engaging middle school students in the art classroom.

In Fall 2018, Nicole Tucker welcomed pre-service art teachers from my upper-level preservice course, *Curriculum, Pedagogy, & Assessment in Art Education*, to observe and learn from her teaching. The nine pre-service art teachers in my course noticed very motivated and engaged middle school students in Nicole's middle school art classes at Bellefonte Middle School within the Bellefonte School District. For example, one student in my art curriculum course wrote about Nicole's teaching stating: "I was extremely impressed with how she incorporated the printing project into teaching students about an endangered species." Another student in my course reflected on what she learned from observing Nicole Tucker's teaching in stating: "I learned that students who are engaged in the art making process are interested and enthusiastic about the difficulty of creating something new and unique. They aren't distracted by the challenge, they are excited to create something different."

With leadership skills and experience in curriculum development and teaching along with self-directed, collaborative, and detail-oriented work in all the MPS courses—she is an ideal candidate for the State College School District art teacher position. Nicole Tucker is responsible, dedicated, experienced, and motivated to accomplish high quality work.

Please feel free to contact me at [kk-b@psu.edu](mailto:kk-b@psu.edu).

Sincerely,

Karen Keifer-Boyd, Ph.D., Professor of Art Education and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the School of Visual Arts, The Pennsylvania State University