

May 11, 2018

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to offer my highest recommendation and appreciation to Karen Yonkers for her continued drive for excellence in music, and her lifelong passion for music education. Karen recently student-taught with me at Wyoming Public Schools, and the band program is better because of her! Karen's strengths include positive reinforcement, fostering personal responsibility, and sharing her love and passion for the enjoyment for quality music making.

In addition to being a natural teacher, Karen is also a professional musician. Having taught private lessons and accompanied Solo/Ensemble festivals for many years, as well as performed as a soloist and within community ensembles, she easily recalls and relates her experiences with her students, assisting and enhancing their learning and performing of music. However, Karen is also flexible and teachable, able to accept critique, willing to help out wherever needed, and is open to new challenges. She is an inspiration and blessing to those around her!

Karen is always the model of excellence, leading her students to correct musical practices in and outside of rehearsal. Karen has demonstrated an improvement in her teaching of tone quality, technical ability, rehearsal pacing, and large ensemble balance and blend. Most importantly, all of this is accomplished with an attitude of enjoyment, which is contagious to her students.

I recommend Karen Yonkers for highest recognition without any reservations. Karen will be an incredible asset to any organization that she is a part of.

Sincerely,

Shawn Gurk
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