



July 18, 2024

Dear Hiring Committee,

I am writing this letter to wholeheartedly recommend Sandra Parker Ulikowski for a teaching position at your institution. In my capacity as Head of Upper School at AIM Academy and Sandy's direct supervisor, I can attest to her unparalleled professionalism, dedication to her craft, and collaborative nature. These qualities and more make Sandy an ideal teacher — one we will truly miss.

AIM Academy is a school for students with language-based disabilities. Sandy joined AIM as a first-year teacher, taking over our photography, digital media, and film classes for grades nine through twelve. Despite the program being in desperate need of a revamp and lacking adequate curriculum and equipment, Sandy relied on her years of professional experience in the field and did not disappoint. She created three robust curriculums filled with near-perfect lesson plans that not only taught her students difficult skills in Adobe Creative Cloud programs but also allowed their creativity and individuality to shine.

Teaching at AIM Academy is challenging because it requires pushing students through a college preparatory scope and sequence while providing necessary scaffolding, support, and differentiation to help students with learning differences progress toward their goals. Sandy's lessons and delivery seamlessly blended challenge and support. She always set clear expectations, both behaviorally and academically, demanding that her students follow classroom rules centered on active participation, mutual support, and respect for the work. If expectations were unmet, Sandy eagerly and positively engaged with the student, their parents, and the appropriate administrator to find the best path forward. Through this approach, she achieved phenomenal results and inspired her students to produce excellent work they were proud of.

Sandy's projects were incredibly inventive. When I hired her, I sought someone who would help students develop their artistic perspectives, and she excelled in this by opening their minds to how digital media can be used for self-expression. Her students' work proudly filled our hallways.

Additionally, Sandy was an active member of our literary magazine and yearbook club, collaborating with faculty members and students to elevate the quality of both productions. She never missed a deadline for grades, narrative reports, or curricular tasks. During her prep time, before school, and during lunch, she made herself available to students seeking help. On the rare occasions she was absent, she ensured her plans were complete and accessible for the substitute teacher.

I would not hesitate to bring Sandy back on our staff. She is an excellent teacher and a great staff member.

Thank you,

Andrew DiPrinzio
Head of Upper School at AIM Academy